Lack of Interest—

JOM Review Comm. Meet Dismal Failure

The Johnson-O'Malley Review Committee Meeting, on September 24, 25, 26, turned out to be a dismal failure.

Many of the members demonstrated their lack of interest by not showing up for the meetings. JOMRC consists of 12 members, one from each of the twelve Native regions, and is the policy board for a $5.1 million contract between the BIA and AFN, Inc.

AFN, Inc. in turn sub contracts out to school districts, Native Associations and others for the delivery of supplemental education services to Native kids (K-12).

The meeting was to begin at 9:30 a.m. September 24 with Mr. Clay Antioquia, Juneau Area Director, BIA scheduled for a presentation on the new JOM regulations.

Mr. Antioquia, along with two of his staff, and five of the 12 JOMRC representatives waited from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. for a quorum to be established.

On September 25th the meetings were scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and Mr. Clay Antioquia — his staff, AFN, Inc. President Roger Lang and AFN, Inc. Vice President Gordon Jackson had to wait until 10:10 a.m. for a quorum to be established.

The meetings on September 24th and 25th were designed to provide the committee members with information on the new JOM regualtions, the BIA manual for implementing the new regualtions and the existing relationships between AFN, Inc. — BIA — JOM. Then the policy decisions were to be made on September 26.

There were no decisions made because the Chairman, Robert Clark, Dillingham was unable to establish a quorum. He, along with four other members waited until 2:00 p.m. then, unable to adjourn, they left the meeting room in disgust.

During the three day period, only three members, Robert Clark — Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation; Ester Combs — Cook Inlet Native Association; and Mary Jane Fate — Tanana Chiefs Conference, were present and on time for every session.

Of the ones absent only one, Marlene Johnson — Sealaska Corporation, was excused, the rest attended infrequently or just didn't show up.