

Nomination was Expected

Commenting on the nomination, BIA Area Director for Alaska, Clarence Antioquia, called Gerard a man of "high credentials with a great deal of experience on Capitol Hill working with the Indian community."

Antioquia went on to say Gerard is a "thorough and conscienceous individual and an outstanding candidate for the position."

Alaska Federation of Natives President Byron Mallott was traveling between Seattle and Juneau at press time and could not be reached for comment. AFN Board Chairman Emil Notti, however, told the Tundra Times that the Gerard nomination was not surprising "in view of his extensive Indian affairs experience, especially in legislative matters." Any further comment from the AFN on the nomination, he said, would probably not be forthcoming until after the AFN board meets and considers the Gerard nomination issue or at least until the AFN board is polled on the matter.

The Gerard nomination has been expected for several weeks. Last month, the 'Yakima Nation Review' called Gerard the "insider" for the Assistant Secretary Post. Gerard, 52, was educated in Montana and served as director of two health organizations there. From 1957 to 1966

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he served as tribal relations officer for the Indian Health Service (IHS), then participated in the Congressional Fellowship Program on Capitol Hill. He subsequently served as legislative liaison officer for the BIA, then took the post of director of the Office of Indian Affairs in HEW until 1971.

From February of 1971 until November of last year he was professional staff member of the Senate Interior Committee, where he was credited with influencing the passage of most major Indian affairs legislation during this period. Last November he left the Senate post and formed a private consulting firm, "Gerard and Associates, Inc." which represents seven tribes in lobbying before the Congress.
