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# Groups Discuss Pipeline Hiring Of Alaskans

**ANCHORAGE**—Representatives of companies now working on the trans-Alaska pipeline, the State of Alaska and labor unions met here Feb. 20 to discuss the present status of Alaska hiring policies agreed upon before construction began.

The meetings were at least partially sparked by a Jan. 3 letter to Gov. Jay Hammond from Roy Peratrovich, superintendent of the Anchorage Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In his letter, Peratrovich urged Hammond to hold meetings to consider hiring practices of the unions, which may not be acting in good faith regarding Alaska hiring on the pipeline.

**Alaska Department of Labor**

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# Pipeline Hiring...

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Commissioner, Ed Orbeck, indicated the state and the unions had reached a "common understanding" during the meetings. He said Hammond has made Alaska hire on the pipeline a No. 1 priority.

"The big problem is that a lot of people are not being truthful about their residency when they go into the union halls," Orbeck said. "We expect to implement a program right away that will provide more positive proof of residency before persons are eligible to gain employment here."

The next four-to-five months will be the most critical for implementing the Alaska Hire provisions of stipulation 29 of the Alyeska Pipeline Permit. The commissioner has authority under Title 38 of the State Local Hire law to take action if Alaskans are not hired first on the pipeline project.

Following the meeting, Tom Evans, assistant commissioner for labor and former Technical Assistance director for the Alaska Federation of Natives, indicated

he thought the meetings had been successful.

"This will increase the prospect of more Alaska Natives gaining work on the pipeline due to their higher unemployment factor," Evans said. "It's up to 80% in many rural areas of the state."

Because of the method by which most persons gain pipeline jobs through urban union halls, many Alaska Natives have found it impossible to gain jobs while Outside workers are employed out of urban communities.

The AFN Manpower Division signed a contract with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company to recruit, screen and refer interested Natives for pipeline work. That program failed, however, because when the Alaska State Employment Center received the referrals it could only put them into a computer for state jobs.

AFN has since instituted another program which attempts to bring Native persons into urban centers immediately previous to employment. But because of the time factors involved, even that may not be enough.