

Effects of cuts cloudy

By **LINDA LORD-JENKINS**

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One thing is certain as U.S. Congressional leaders and Reagan administration aides duke it out in Washington D.C. about proposed massive federal budget cuts affecting social services -- no one knows for certain what local effects the proposed cuts will have.

And as the congressional leaders and Reagan aides go at their public and private haggling, Alaska Native leaders and providers of social services are

scrambling through a maze of bureaucratic barriers and non-information to try to find out what effect the cuts will have on rural Alaskans.

Reagan's office of Management and Budget has proposed massive decreases in direct aid to states. And, Reagan proposes to institute a system of "block grants," whereby lump sums of money are given to the state government to distribute as the state governments see fit.

The Alaska Federation of Natives has formed an ad hoc committee of regional corpora-

tions representatives to study the effect of the cuts but those representatives are having a hard time gleaning information from the federal and state government because nothing in the proposed cuts has been finalized. And it may not until in late September when Congress has to vote to approve or kill the Reagan cuts. But the Native leaders and service providers alike agreed on two things. They don't know what effect the cuts will have here and they aren't optimistic.

Sylvia Carlsson who heads the

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