

On Domestic Airlines— Native Languages

ANCHORAGE—Alaska may not know Alaska as well as Alaska likes to say it does.

At least that's how Gordon Jackson, Alaska Federation of Natives vice president for Human Resources, feels about two airlines companies which serve rural communities of the state but hesitate to consider giving safety instructions to passengers in languages other than English.

After waiting over a month for replies to a request by the AFN Human Resources Committee that Wien Air Alaska and Alaska Airlines provide rural Alaska flight announcements in Native languages, Jackson says he can't understand how they could refuse so abruptly.

"We're talking about saving lives and they're saying they can't," he said. "Alaska Airlines says they will consider a special welcome but I expected a res-

ponse outlining how they could do it all."

Jackson says he is particularly perturbed because they have done special announcement in poetry during centennial years by use of tape recorder devices.

"Wien and Alaska fly daily to places like Barrow, Nome, Kotzebue and Bethel which are predominately Eskimo towns and on most of these flights, there are many Eskimos whose first language is Eskimo," Jackson's original letter of October 3, said. "The Human Resources Committee would be interested in knowing your reasons for not having Native announcements and if your airline plans this in the near future."

Jackson sent the companies another letter on November 7, again requesting an answer to the suggestion.

Raymond I. Peterson, President of Wien, said such a service would be "Virtually a physical impossibility although a very desirable service." He said "the various dialects involved, plus coordinator of properly trained crew members, as required by the FAA and our emergency training procedures, coupled with ability to speak the various dia-

Lecture-Panel

The University of Alaska announces a lecture-panel discussion concerning the Political and Social state of the nation with Prof. R. London Smith, professor of Political Science and Prof. Sarkis Atamian, professor of Sociology, on December 20, Friday at 7:00 p.m. at the Rec Center basement at Eilson AFB. Program is open to the public. A question and answer session will follow.

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lects involved, create almost insurmountable problems."

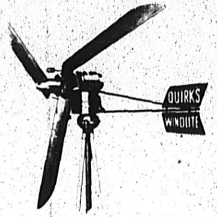
Alaska Airlines Director of Advertising and Marketing, John W. Bates, offered a similar response.

"Since it would be difficult for our Inflight Attendants to do all announcements in various Native languages, we will try to develop a "special" welcome message," he said.

Bates also said that offering Native language announcements "Would be interesting for both our regular customers and Alaska visitors alike."

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