

Emil Notti named DCRA commissioner

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Juneau — Emil Notti, a longtime Native affairs activist and Gov. Bill Sheffield's legislative liaison, was named commissioner of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs on Thursday.

His appointment to the \$73,620 job is effective Jan. 2 and comes a month to the day after Mark Lewis resigned from the post.

Notti, 50, headed Emil Notti and Associates, a consulting and lobbying firm in Anchorage, before becoming Sheffield's legislative liaison in De-
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cember of 1982.

Replacing Notti as legislative liaison will be Ray Gillespie, who served as Notti's assistant during the 1982 session.

"I'm pleased that Emil has accepted this important position in my cabinet," Sheffield said in a prepared statement. "With his long experience in both state government and rural issues, I believe he is ideally suited for the job."

"Emil has been and will continue to be an influential member of my administration," the governor said. "During this next legislative session, I expect he will more than pack his share of the administration's legislative package."

Notti was born in Ruby, a village on the Yukon River. In 1966, he organized the

Alaska Federation of Natives and served as the organization's first president.

He was deputy commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services under former Gov. William Egan from 1970-1972. From 1972 to 1976, he was president of the Alaska Native Foundation where he played a key role in the passage of the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Gillespie, 35, was born and raised in Seward and returned there after receiving a law degree from the University of Idaho. He will be dissolving his partnership in a Seward law firm before reporting to work in Juneau next month, officials said.

Jeff Smith Jr., director of the Division of Municipal and Regional Assistance, will continue to serve as the depart-

ment's acting commissioner until Notti takes over.

Lewis, 32, had said his resignation was "a mutual decision" between himself and the

governor. He admitted at the time that his efforts to reorganize the department had caused employee tension and problems.

A former city manager at Valdez, Lewis had helped run Sheffield's gubernatorial campaign in the Fairbanks area where Sheffield did well.