

Manpower Group Urges Appointment of Director

The State Manpower Advisory Committee, meeting in Fairbanks this week, strongly urged immediate appointment of a State Director of Vocational Education, and cited the achievements of the Arctic Eskimo Crafts Association of Nome.

Chairman, Ferall Campbell, Juneau, said, "One of the chief handicaps of Alaskans in gaining employment is lack of occupational and vocational training facilities and programs appropriate to the state needs. Yet, the Alaska Vocational

Education Division has been without a director for four of the six years since statehood. The committee is drafting a formal recommendation to the Governor's office that State Vocational Education programs be given immediate direction and emphasis."

After hearing reports of ongoing MDTA projects, the ten-man committee gave special attention to a recently established crafts production and marketing association workshop at Nome.

Arthur Beam, production specialist and Paul Tiulana, acting manager of the association, summarized the growth of the Nome workshop from a manpower training program in 1964 to its present status as a free enterprise business managed and operated by the craftsmen themselves. The committee formally commended Beam and is recommending that the Office of the Governor seek a means of continuing finances for his office.

Other programs effectively reaching the "hard core" unemployed were described by Jack Doyle who is conducting a series of fisherman upgrade programs, and by Douglas Colp, who is training native Alaskans in mining technology at the University of Alaska.

Committee members, representative of the public, labor, and management included Ed Perkowski and Julius Kornfiend from Fairbanks, F. D. Chiel, William Davis, and Robert Dunn from Anchorage, S. E. Hazelquist and James L. Simpson from Ketchikan, and John Tryon from College.

A number of representatives of those state and federal agencies responsible for administering Manpower Development Training programs were present as consultants and panelists. These included spokesmen for the Alaska Employment Security Division; the State Vocational Education Division; the Bureau of Employment Security, Neighborhood Youth Corps, and U. S. Office of Education.