

Educational Confab—

Notable Conference

A significant conference designated to have a long-range effect on the delivery of educational services in the unorganized borough was held on July 16-18, 1974 in Fairbanks.

The conference was sponsored by the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Human Resources Committee in cooperation with the Center for Northern Education Research, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, and Alaska Native Foundation.

The main purpose of the July conference was to develop strategies for implementing the recommendations of a report printed by the center for Northern Education Research entitled "Pre-higher Education in the Unorganized Borough" following a series of meetings and conferences.

The report was sent to all legislators and administration in January, 1974 with high hopes something would be done. However, AFN Human Resources analysis in April indicated no action and decided to sponsor an additional conference to develop strategies for implementing those recommendations in addition to further analysis of the current situation.

Specific strategies that evolved from the past conference included:

- A follow-up committee be established to assist in drafting legislation to implement the recommendations and follow-up.

- A meeting of the Human Resources Committee, Department of Community and Regional Affairs, Department of Education, and Center for Northern Education Research be organized to revise and draft educational legislation. The legislation would then be brought before the AFN convention for ratification by the village dele-

gates.

Further recommendations evolved from the conference. They include:

- 100% state funding for Alaskan schools.

- Establishment of regional educational services areas to provide educational activities towards the over-all goal of local control.

- SOS board be expanded to 12 members appointed or elected by the people in respective regional corporations.

- To amend the revenue sharing act to allow a differential rate for regions so they may be allowed to assume local governmental responsibilities without suffering the loss of services because of size.

- The U.S. Department of the Interior become heavily involved in the case "Molly Hootch vs. Alaska State Operated Schools."

- The BIA educational system (only) be transferred to the administrative council of the Department of Education.

The subcommittee on education will incorporate the recommendations into proposed legislation during the next several weeks.

Gordon Jackson, vice president for Human Resources stated that, "Our strategy and recommendations is ambitious; however, we've talked about the problem too long and plan to do everything possible to implement them. I consider it a high priority and should be above other issues such as moving the capitol."

The Human Resources Committee will have status reports regarding the recommendations every meeting and plan to do a considerable amount of lobbying during the next Alaska legislature.