

# Lekanof Says No Political Pressure Tried

Flore Lekanof stated this week that there was no political pressure exerted in his election as executive director of ASCAP.

He said that he had applied for the position since acting director Al Fothergill could not have been elected. Fothergill was under fire because of previous financial problems with the program.

In this case, Lekanof said that his experience in the program gave him an advantage over other candidates in continuing the ASCAP projects.

"Nothing could be farther from the truth," said Lekanof about charges that he would be following orders from Gov. Hickel. He said that he was a Native himself, so he had a special interest in the progress of the Alaskan Natives.

Even without the support of the State commissioners, he said that he would have had a majority in the election. In addition, Dan Lisbourne, one of the persons who voted against him, has since come over to Lekanof's side.

On the resignations, Flore said that he had lost seven out of 32 administrators. But on the Head Start program, with over 200 workers, there had been no resignations.

He said that, on his trip to Washington, he had spoken to Sargent Shriver about the programs in Alaska, including the Grass Roots, legal aid, cooperatives, and credit union programs. He said that Shriver was very interested in these efforts.