



Integrity, Pride in Heritage, Progress

AFN, Inc.

# NEWSLETTER

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## Indian health care act passed

The Health Affairs Division, AFN, Inc., was recently informed of the passage of HR 2525 entitled "The Indian Health Care Improvement Act" by the House of Representatives by a vote of 310 for and 9 against. The amended session passed by the House provides authorization of \$466 million for three (3) fiscal years, but retains the original committed of 7 years reported by the Interior Committee.

The purpose of the bill is to provide a comprehensive approach to provide the direction and resources necessary for Indian Health Service to overcome the appalling deficiencies of providing quality health care to the American Indians and

Alaska Natives. Further it is designed to raise the health care status of Indians and Alaska Natives to a level at least comparable to that of the general population.

The legislations as passed have six primary titles to accomplish the congressional mandate to upgrade the health status of Indians and Alaska Natives. These are:

Title I — Indians Health Manpower. This is designed to resolve the shortage in health care in the IHS and to produce increased numbers of Indian health care personnel through scholarships and recruitment programs for Indian and Alaska Natives. Total authorization over three years is \$29.2 million.

Title II — Patient Care Service. This title is designed for the elimination of the backlog in, and future maintenance of patient care services under a system of orderly funding increases over a three year period, with a minimum of 1,108 positions provided for FY '79 and FY '80. Total authorizations \$79.275 million.

The title provides funding resources to eliminate unsafe and out-of-date facilities, hospitals, health centers and clinics operated by the Indian Health Service. Total authorization: \$337.167 million.

Under this title of the Act, Indian Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries would be able to utilize IHS facilities for ser-

vices. This title provides funds for the delivery of health services to Indians living in urban areas and is designed to support urban clinic and referral programs. Total authorization: \$30 million.

The secretary shall conduct a study to determine the need for and the feasibility of, establishing a school of medicine to train Indians to provide health services for Indians.

This title calls for the Secretary to report annually to the Congress on the progress made in effecting the purposes of this Act, and calls for the Secretary to make "recommendations to Congress concerning any additional authorizations" for FY 81 — FY 84.

"This is only an authorizing legislation. It will be incumbent upon all the Indian tribes and Alaska Natives to strongly request the annualized appropriations under the Act through the Senate and House Appropriations Committees within the next three years," stated Carl Jack, Director of Health Affairs Division. "Otherwise if Congress does not appropriate the necessary funds to implement the provision of the Act, the Act itself will be just an empty promise to the Indian and Alaska Native who have worked so hard for its passage within the last two years," he further stated.

## Bush conference Oct. 7

Site selection and date for Third Bush Justice Conference has been confirmed. Pre-planning for the Third Bush Justice Conference was an important item on the Agenda when the Bush Justice Implementation Committee met in Anchorage, August 7. The

Committee decided on Kenai, Alaska (Wildwood Station) as the Conference site and October 7, 8, and 9 as the date. A.F.N. encourages strong participation from people in rural Alaska. Hopefully, we will see even greater participation at this coming Third Bush Justice Conference than in the past.

## Commissions available to artists

The State of Alaska, under 1975 legislation, will be reserving one per cent of construction costs of new state buildings and renovation projects to commission works of art for public spaces.

This fall, there will be several bond issues placed before the voters and, according to the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA), if they receive a positive vote, between \$250,000 and \$350,000 will be made available for a variety of state buildings. The building projects, to be constructed over the next two years, will include rural school facilities.

ASCA has stated that the purpose of this art program is to involve Alaskan artists in the design process of public buildings and to "encourage interaction between the public and our regional art."

The Dept. of Public Works and ASCA from a joint building users committee as each building is designed to select artists for the commissions that will be contracted for the building. Resource materials for the committees are in the form of permanent portfolio files maintained on each artist in the state who is interested in obtaining a commission. By reviewing these files, the committees are able to select the artists best fulfilling their aspirations.

According to ASCA, all resource files remain on a permanent basis as they are intended to be used for several years for the purpose of selecting artists for commissions. All portfolios filed with ASCA are reviewed for each project.

Any local artist interested in obtaining a commission should supply ASCA with a portfolio which contains the following:

1. A resume of the artist including name, address, and phone number. A listing should follow of all honors received, public works executed previously, education and workshops completed. A formal education is not a criterion for a commission since experience and informal training may provide the technical expertise needed to undertake a project. A listing of such informal training and experience can be included.

2. Six to twelve slide transparencies of previous works or art by the artist. Three-dimensional works should be photographed from at least two angles. Listed on each slide should be the artist's name, title of work and medium, year executed, dimensions (height, width and depth), and present location of the work (if known).

Slides are preferred and necessary for the presentation format to the selection committees. Be sure that your artwork is well represented by good color slides. While they need not be professionally made and can be taken even with an Instamatic, they should be of sufficient quality that the committees can get a good idea of the quality and detail of your

work. Artists should plan on periodically updating the portfolio with new pieces of work completed.

Questions may be directed to Gordon Smith, Director of Visual Arts, or Roy E. Helms, Executive Director.

Portfolios may be mailed or delivered to Alaska State Council on the Arts, 619 Warehouse Ave., Suite 220, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

## Natives travel to Smithsonian

Eskimo athletes, dancers and craftsmen will be traveling to the Smithsonian Institute's Festival of American Arts in Washington D.C. this month.

Margy Johnson of the Alaska Federation of Natives and John Heffle, chairman of the 1976 World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, will accompany the group. According to Heffle, the AFN has contracted with the institute to provide transportation, lodging and food for the participants but are hoping to get support from native corporations to help defray the costs of getting them between their villages and Fairbanks.

Acting as moderator throughout the exhibition will be Reggie Joule, winner of the first Howard Rock Memorial Trophy and the outstanding athlete of this year olympics.

Athletes making the trip are Camille Conwell, Eva Kowunna, Tom Fields, James Itta, Joseph Okpitch, Billy Ahalik, Robert Aiken, Billy Killbeu, Anthony Sarren, Emma Levitt and Ray Harding.

The King Island Dancers are Al Pikonganna, Clara Pikonganna, John Pullock, John Kiminock, Florance Kiminock, Gabe Muktoyuk, Francis Muktoyuk, Michael Pullock, Gregory Ayac, Margaret Penatac, Barnard Kasqnoc and Margaret Seeganna.

The two craftsmen attending the festival are Lincoln Milligrock and Bert Oozevasuek.

The group is scheduled to leave their villages Aug. 30 and return Sept. 8.



THE SKELETON of what was to be the luxurious Plaza Hotel stands against a cloudy Fairbanks sky awaiting a decision on its fate by new owners, Nome's Bering Straits Native Corporation. The corporation took over June 15 after refusing to enter into a joint venture proposed by the original developer, Daniel Gaudiane of the Fairbanks Real Estate Development Corp., stating long-term objectives did not allow them to get involved in the hotel business. Construction was halted on the proposed \$9 million hotel in November, 1975. Bering Straits settled with Gaudiane for \$150,000 plus agreed to pay off remaining architectural fees and outstanding bills.

—photo by BETSY BRENNEMAN

## ISEGR changes name

FAIRBANKS—The University of Alaska, Fairbanks Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research will be

less of a mouthful, effective this month.

Institute director Lee Gorsuch announced recently the

name is being changed to Institute of Social and Economic Research. The change was made following consultation with the university counsel and institute staff.

In a memorandum, Gorsuch explains, "We have become increasingly conscious of the difficulties arising from the length and complexity of its name. People have a tendency to stumble over it; few remember it in whole, and many jumble the sequence of words."

He adds the institute is unhappy with the use of the acronym "ISEGR" and its "jarring phonetic pronunciations 'eye-see-ger' and 'iss-a-ger.'"

Gorsuch said nothing is lost by dropping the word "government" since that subject area is covered by "social." This change implies no change in institute policy or direction.

The name may be changed since it was not set in the law when the legislature established the institute in 1961. It was known as the Institute of Business and Economic Research until 1966 when the present name was adopted.