

Bill seeks to replace CETA in Indian villages

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The Bristol Bay Native Corp. will lay off 90 of 103 village employees in the 1982 fiscal year because of a cutback in federal jobs programs which pay the employees salaries.

With "no opportunities for transferring to the private industry," in the community, those people face a dim future.

The Kodiak Island Native Association expects a 45 percent cutback in the number of employees working in the village who had been paid through federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) funds.

In Nome, Kawerak, Inc. reports that about 40 CETA positions have been cut and the jobs of all the village management trainees, police officers, adult basic education teachers and public service employees have been eliminated.

These are but a few of the jobs eliminated in Alaska villages as a result of federal cutback in spending. And more cuts in these and other areas can be expected at the end of fiscal 1981.

In an effort to change these scenarios and similar situations happening in the Native and Indian community throughout the country, a U.S. Senate bill has been introduced to replace the jobs programs and the Administration for Native Americans.

The bill, sponsored by Senators Jeremiah Denton and Hatch, is given good chance for passage.

The bill, if passed, would distribute \$28 million among Alaska Natives and American Indian tribes in an effort to offset the effects of the loss of an estimated \$63 million in CETA jobs programs.

The money would be given directly to Alaska villages and American Indian tribes who de-

monstrated a plan for distribution. No state participation is called for in the implementation of the block grant-type plan.

It would also replace the ANA which was commissioned in 1973 to primarily provide core administration for tribal governments. When commissioned, the ANA was included in a section of the Economic Opportunity Act which expires at the end of fiscal 1981--October--and takes ANA with it.

The act has not been reauthorized and such programs are facing stiff going-over in light of President Ronald Reagan's spending cutbacks.

The Denton/Hatch bill would "provide employment, strengthen tribal government, and to enhance economic development on federal and state reservations" in Alaska and Oklahoma.

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Primary aim of the bill is to replace the Comprehensive Education and Training Act (CETA) monies which are being lost to Native and Indian communities because of cutbacks in the CETA title III and IV programs. Those programs were initially intended to provide public service jobs to the unemployed.

According to a report presented in Congress last month, the Native communities throughout the country have been forced by economic limitations to use the CETA workers in key community positions such as health care workers, police and fire workers, educational assistants and other jobs.

Such is the case in rural Alaska where villages already are feeling the pinch of having to lay off public service workers. In the Tlingit/Haida area last spring, 400 workers were let go with only a few being absorbed by

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Tribes would administer funds

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other agencies which had the money to pay for them.

According to federal information exchange system data, Alaska received \$29,488,000 in CETA funds last year. That amount is not broken down between individual CETA programs.

CETA distribution by borough is as follows: Anchorage, \$8.726 million; Bethel, \$1.7 million in CETA and Bristol Bay, \$52,000; Dillingham, \$481,000; North Star Borough, \$1.01 million; Juneau, \$15.969 million; Kenai, \$314,000; Ketchikan Gateway, \$366,000; Kobuk, \$411,000; Kodiak Island, \$205,000; Matanuska-susitna, \$418,000; Nome, \$569,000;

North Slope, \$52,000; Prince Wales, \$130,000; Sitka, \$177,000; Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon, \$50,000; Fairbanks, \$63,000; Wade Hampton, \$82,000; Wrangell-Petersburg, \$52,000; and Yukon-Koyukuk, \$52,000.

A report on the Denton/Hatch bill says that legislation does not intend "to continue the myth that funds will be used to train people to get jobs elsewhere since there are few, if any, in the private sector jobs on many reservations, but it provides a source of funding for employment of tribal employees, upgrading of skills and qualifications of such employees and other such activities to enable such governments to more effectively assume local responsibility for the economic and social well being of their people."

The bill designates tribal or village governments as recipients and administrators of federal monies and allows the governments to determine locally the manner in which the money will be spent.

However, each guarantor must submit a plan which describes the manner in which the tribe will be enhanced by the money.

Relatively easy sailing is expected for the proposal, especially because of support from two key committee chairman who are involved in the funding process in Congress.

Senators Pete V. Domenici, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, co-authored a letter to William Cohen, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs asking that he "consider authorizing a new section of the bill to help meet the employment needs of Indians and Alaskan Natives while promoting the employment needs of Indians and Alaskan Natives while promoting tribal self-determination and offering employment rather than general assistance as the means of meeting our trust responsibilities."

The letter acknowledges that governmental efforts to stimulate the economy in the private sector will not be felt in Indian and Native areas because of "the very obvious lack of private enterprises" in those areas.

The support of these two powerful and influential senators is seen as very beneficial to the bill's passage.