

Hearings Slated On Minority Job Hiring

Hearings will be held throughout the state next month on a labor agreement to hire minority people for construction in numbers proportionate to their percentage of our population.

The plan was drawn up by 21 representatives of organized labor, minority groups and contracting associations under the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights. As now written, it calls for 200 minority group employees to be brought into various unions on a statewide basis in the first year.

According to Robert Willard, chairman of the plan committee, "It's one of the first statewide plans in the United States that has been developed and, from my observation, it is one of the better plans, if not the best in the country."

He explained that if a voluntary hometown type plan, such as this, should fail, the federal government would impose a mandatory plan.

"Had a federal plan been imposed there would be no Alaskan input," he said. "either in its development or its guidance through the years the plan would affect the industry."

When finally ratified by unions, contractors and minority groups, the Alaska plan will affect all construction projects to come within the jurisdiction of the plan.

Hearings will be held in Anchorage on June 3-4; Fairbanks, 7-8; Juneau, 10-11; Ketchikan, 14-15; Sitka, 17; Nome, 21; Kotzebue, 22; Barrow, 24; Bethel, 28; and Valdez, July 1.