Jackson resigns AFN VP post

Gordon Jackson announced his resignation as Executive Vice President for Human Resources Committee of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

In a Tundra Times interview, Jackson said if he lost his campaign for the State House, he promised his wife and family he would enter law school and begin a new career. Jackson was defeated.

"Basically, what I'm doing is seeking a higher paying position," Jackson said, "Dedication will do great things in AFN but at this point it won't get you through law school anymore."

Jackson said he had no quarrel with AFN over his position, but that if he had a message to leave with the federation, it would be that the human resources programs be continued. He acknowledged there has been a need to give land problems priority and that there has been progress in human resources. "I think we've just' scratched the surface," he added.

Citing continuing problems in health, education and social services, Jackson said the greatest resources are human resources. These resources must be developed, or he cautioned, 'we're going to be the losers in the end."

Jackson, originally from Kake in southeastern Alaska, is a 1970 graduate of the University of Alaska. He joined AFN in

1973 as Johnson-O'Malley Program Director. In March, 1974, he was appointed to the post of Executive Vice President for Human Resources.

"I'll certainly miss the position," Jackson said, "and the people I work for and with are really wonderful and beautiful people."

Jackson is also President of the Board of Directors of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, a position Jackson said he would continue to hold. Other responsibilities, which Jackson said he would be phased out, include posts with the Anchorage Economic Development Commission and the State Post-Secondary Education Commission.