

BIA Contracts

ANCHORAGE—The Bureau of Indian Affairs has tentatively scheduled a Bi-Indian Contracting meeting for August 25 in Anchorage. All Natives who contract with the Bureau and those interested in doing so are invited to attend.

Morris Thompson, area director for Alaska, reported with this announcement that his office has been assigned 14 auditors to go over past contracts and that the Federal Government is becoming increasingly particular about its contracting methods.

"There's nothing new about what we're doing," he said. "The problem is they've shorted us on advance funding. In Alaska, rural Alaska, this works a terrific hardship. We are working on this to see if we can get around it."

He added that the purpose of contracting is to provide more and better services to the Alaskan Natives.

John Borbridge Jr., president of the Tlingit and Haida Central Council, asked if Native leaders might attend and caucus.

"The involvement sure as hell better mean more than just listening," he warned. Thompson kept his cool, said leaders could caucus any time they liked.