

Process of Getting JOM FY 76 Prog's.

The agonizing process of getting JOM FY 76 programs off paper and into schoolrooms around the state continues. The AFN hope for an early decision on the FY 76 year has become instead, a painful, lengthy process for AFN staff and village applicants.

But with all approvals at last secured and a contract reached with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the AFN office has started its rehire process of former JOM staff members and has recruited for positions approved in the new contract.

The JOM staff is an exciting feature of the new FY 76 program. A good portion of the people you worked with last year should be available again to see that this year's projects move smoothly.

Additionally, AFN has added to its staff, fiscal managers, who will work closely with the program managers (formerly, called evaluators). Those financial technicians will be assigned directly to a small portion of JOM programs in order to help them muddle through all the financial obligations which the nationwide Johnson O'Malley regulations demand.

With this individualized help in fiscal management, it is hoped that those complicated reimbursements which caused so much anxiety last year will become instead a simple exercise.

This new staff plan will leave the program managers free to work on the programmatic side of the JOM effort, providing class ideas and curriculum suggestions to teachers and special assistance to school parent committees.

But now to new negotiations — the key to this year's programs. With the recent approval of the AFN contract with the BIA, we may now, at last, begin negotiations with the 54 prospective JOM programs. And we cannot do this fast enough.

Letters were sent out to those projects who had received both JOM Review Committee and BIA approval requesting convenient negotiation dates be submitted to the AFN/JOM office. These will have to be honored on a first come first served basis.

if it were humanly possible for the small JOM staff to be everywhere at once, they would be because they are as anxious as you to get these programs into the schools with the minimum of delay.

In the meantime, until negotiations are completed and the signed contract has been delivered to each JOM program signifying that it may begin, the AFN/JOM staff will be perpetual motion.