

Audit of JOM- AFN Funds ...

(Continued from Page 1)

under question as to whether it belonged to JOM or not," Jackson explained. "As far as implementation is concerned, all we had was a draft prime contract — we didn't even have a subcontract yet."

Jackson said he first established a set of priorities which included obtaining a staff, identifying jobs to be done in the coming months, developing an evaluation and monitoring system and developing an application system. He had to obtain a lawyer to help develop an application form for sub-contractors, had to distribute the applications to potential schools and administer the total programs.

"It's a first effort for the state and I'm quite proud of it," Jackson said. "I had to make a lot of decisions and now I think they were right. In addition, our efforts in the development of SB-1017 (Indian Self Determination Act) represents a coming trend of which AFN is leading the way."

Jackson added that his trips to New Mexico to work with the so-called "Red Regs" group which helped develop SB-1017 was

representative of the kind of influence which the Alaska program has had. Ironically, that travel is also in question according to Jackson, who added: "But I don't have any problem substantiating it."

Ralph Eluska took over as JOM director last May. In November he resigned in a hurry about what he believed was a lack of control in the program. He expressed a belief that the regions should take over administration of the program. Jackson has indicated that to administer the program through the 12 non-profit Native regional organizations would compound the bureaucracy and weaken the overall programs.

Berry took over as AFN-JOM director after Eluska resigned Oct. 31. Soon after his taking over in November, Berry told the Tundra Times of certain concerns he had about files and other documentary materials related to the administration of the contract which had disappeared from the office.

At that time he related certain anxieties about the Quechan group, and although he didn't imply they could be responsible for the mysterious disappearances, he indicated it

was a concern of his staff. When asked about this previous occurrence recently, Berry said he now felt the problem was related to certain personnel rather than the efforts of the consultants.

"I've never really figured out what and why things were disappearing — some of it, I think, was due to paranoia by staff members," Berry said. "Things are going much smoother now with the turnovers since I've taken over."

Five persons have quit or been fired in the JOM office since Berry took the job of director, including Bea Welsh, Jorene Reimer, Cheryl Taylor, Karl Greenwald and former deputy director, Woody Morrison.

Berry went on to explain that the program is difficult to administer because it requires such comprehensive evaluation and reporting to BIA. He said mistakes are compounded because time requirements are so close and many local school administrators don't understand how important it is to keep up with the paperwork.

"We all make mistakes, I'll admit I make mistakes," he said. "For instance, we didn't get the fy-76 applications out soon

Hard If You Don't Wear Safety Belt— Recovering Damages

An appeals court has ruled that a person injured in an automobile crash may be limited in recovering damages if he failed to wear a safety belt.

The New York Times reported that the New York State Court of Appeals in Albany upheld the action of a jury which desallowed a damage claim by a woman who was ejected from her car equipped with seat belts which she was not using.

The plaintiff, Alyce Spier of Madison County, N.Y. was flung

from her car after a tractor-trailer attempted to pass and struck her vehicle.

The court, in reviewing Spier vs. Barker, a decision made in December 1974, held in effect that the failure of the plaintiff to strap herself in "resulted in increasing the extent . . . injuries and damages."

Letters

(Continued from Page 2)

the white man good. Things may be changing for the better.

Sorry Howard, had to check and Jim's medals and trophy was returned to him two years ago, the 1975 World Almanac has not corrected the record.

All of Seattle is excited about the pipeline, people are moving here trying to get jobs in Alaska, many have asked me "did I have any influence" which is a laugh as I am trying to get back home myself.

Sincerely,
Aliya

Alaska Hire ...

(Continued from Page 1)

50 were in attendance. Jacqueline Butler, characterizing the hiring practices as a "dehumanizing process," said she was testifying on behalf of two people who did not attend because they were afraid of being harassed by union officials. Other people expressed similar fears.

Butler suggested that the entire hiring process be taken away from the unions. She alleged the practice of bribing a union official to get a job was common knowledge among people seeking pipeline work.

There were also charges that unions have failed to provide enough information about hiring procedures, that clerk are unfriendly and unsympathetic and that hiring hall space is inadequate.

M.A. Wier, business agent for the Culinary Union, and John Orbeck of the Laborer's Union both acknowledged they have received offers of money to give a person a job, but both denied they have accepted bribes.

Weir said his union has changed its dispatching procedures three times in an effort to make it more equitable and denied he had ever practiced discrimination.

Orbeck said his union expects to move into a bigger building soon to make it easier to process the 150-200 names being added to job waiting lists. He added that his union has gone through its "C" list several times in an effort to fill pipeline positions. This list is composed of skilled residents and non-residents who do not have enough hours of experience to have top priority.

Sen. Sackett told the audience there was no way to predict what would come of the hearing, but promised that all testimony would be fully considered. He said there were definitely not enough Alaskans employed on the pipeline project and that his committee would make a thorough study of the problem.

Other members of the committee hearing testimony were Rep. Charles Parr, Rep. Steve Cowper, and Rep. Fred Brown, all of Fairbanks.

A similar hearing was held simultaneously in Anchorage and an earlier hearing was held in Juneau.

Written comment will be accepted by the committee for another week. Interested persons should write: Joint Senate-House Labor Management Committee, Pouch V, State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99811.



you have a good neighbor at RCA Alascom

Roger Funk is a toll Center Supervisor for RCA Alaska Communications, Inc., responsible for the operation and maintenance of long distance circuits and private lines for voice, telegraph, and data transmission. It's a big job — covering commercial long distance telephone operations for South Central Alaska, including the Aleutian Chain. With a \$4.5 million addition to the Anchorage Toll Center completed last year, this facility will house \$10 million of new telephone switching equipment to improve communications service. During his 13-year career with the company, Roger was coordinator for the transfer of the Air Force Alaska Communications System to RCA Alascom. Today he's also cutover coordinator for the new Northern Electric SP-1 switch, that will make Anchorage the principal city in the telephone switching network in Alaska. Computer-controlled and fully-automated, this four-wire switching equipment will provide better quality

voice transmission. Moreover it will route calls throughout the state more efficiently. But for all his responsibilities, Roger still takes time to actively participate in his community. He was an advisor to the Junior Achievement organization during its first year of operations in Anchorage in 1974. He's a race official and starter for the Nordic Ski Club, the largest such club in the United States. And he's also a volunteer maintenance man for the permanent Girl Scout Camp near Knik. When you need a good neighbor, Roger Funk is there — like some 1,100 employees of RCA Alascom who are committed to making a better community and improved communications in Alaska.

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