

# OJT Administrators Successful-

## Program's Roy Huhndorf, Fred Bigjim Kept on the Go

"I need a job or anything where I could be of some use—such as a training program where I earn a wage and not just get the training but also job experience," said the recent Vietnam veteran.

He explained he was married and needed some means of support for himself and his family.

Appearing to be in his early thirties the neatly dressed Eskimo said he did not have any transportation and lived a few miles out of town.

Since he was a recent veteran he did not have too much job experience to rely on. In addition, the young man had no saleable skill.

To most employment counselors, the situation would seem hopeless. But not to Fred Bigjim and Roy Huhndorf.

As administrators of the On the Job Training Program (OJT) sponsored by the Alaska Federation of Natives, they are able to offer the young married veteran a job opportunity by reimbursing an employer while he trains him.

In this way and through regular job placements, they are able to assist many of the unemployed who come to their office every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. for interviews.

Several weeks ago, as Mr. Huhndorf, OJT Coordinator, was talking with the young man mentioned above, Mr. Bigjim, also an OJT Coordinator, was in the same room interviewing a young woman about a clerical job.

In 60 minutes the two of them had talked to seven people, besides taking care of the necessary paper work required to operate the OJT Program.

The A.F.N. sponsored OJT Program was funded in July of 1968 by the U.S. Labor Department with the contract being renewed every twelve months. The OJT program is now being funded through the State Department of Labor. The staff for the program is located in the Kalooa Building in Anchorage.

The State Labor Department fully finances the program and A.F.N. assumes responsibility for administering the program.

Under the OJT Program, a private employer can receive up to half of the hourly wage paid to the trainee. The employer trains on his job site and according to his specifications.

According to Mr. Bigjim and Mr. Huhndorf the program works closely with manpower centers throughout the state. The manpower center must certify training in all occupations.

To be eligible, Bigjim explained, the employer must have established the need for the job and the employee must have established the need and desire for training. He does not have to be disadvantaged.

The OJT trainee is considered an employee of the firm the day his training begins.

OJT coordinators assist the employer in working out a training schedule and counsel both the employer and trainee as necessary.

Bigjim and Huhndorf, both Alaska Natives, explained that services are available to anyone in the state but that most of their interviews are with Natives.

Fred Bigjim, director of the program, is an Eskimo from Nome. He attended grade schools at both Unalakleet and White Mountain and graduated from Nome High School.

He has attended the University of Alaska, Sheldon Jackson Jr. College and while in the Army attended the University of Maryland. While in the Army he served in Germany and traveled throughout Europe.

Mr. Bigjim requires nine credits to receive his Bachelors Degree in Secondary Education. He is married and has one child.

Roy Huhndorf, coordinator for the program, is an Eskimo-Athabaskan from Nulato. He attended grade school at Nulato. Mr. Huhndorf graduated from Anchorage High School.

He served three years in the U.S. Army, based at Oklahoma, Alabama and Alaska. Roy is currently president of the Cook Inlet Native Association and a member of the A.F.N. Board of Directors.

Huhndorf is also very active in Community affairs in the Anchorage area. He is currently working on an Urban Native Task Force to formulate an Urban Native Center for Anchorage.

Darlene Wright, secretary for the program, is an Eskimo-Indian from Fairbanks. Darlene attended grade school at Fairbanks, graduated from Dimond High School in Anchorage and attended Anchorage Community College.

She is interested in majoring

in Elementary Education at the University of Alaska.