

Regional Job Confab Draws Discussion

The Regional Job Development Conference is now going on in Fairbanks and it is being held at the Boatel on the Airport Road.

Sponsored by the Commission for Human Rights, Fairbanks Area Interactivity Council, the conference is discussing as its theme, "Jobs, Alaskans, Profit, Progress."

Taping a program for the University of Alaska's KUAC and its "Conversations," Mrs. Laurel Bland and Robert Aloysius discussed the conference for the KUAC radio audience this week.

Mrs. Bland said, "Jobs—we want to see that every man and woman in Alaska who wants a job is able to get a job. We hope that our Alaskans who need these jobs and want these jobs will be there on the spot ready to go to work. Bringing numbers of people in from outside doesn't help Alaska and the Alaskan people.

"Profit—we're all interested in profit on any level; and, of course, progress means economic development; it means better living conditions for everyone; it means getting away from this pattern of seasonal work—year round employment can't help but mean progress all along the line."

"As far as the topic of interest," Mrs. Bland continued, "I think that this is something that affects all of our lives, all of us who are permanent Alaskans. If a portion of our friends and neighbors, or those who share the land, are not able to earn a

good living, to have a regular income that they can count on, it's going to reflect on all of us.

"There are people who don't have as much as others, and it doesn't make anyone feel real good. Anyone can contribute, whatever his particular field of talent is.

"Just being knowledgeable is a contribution—learn about the North Slope and what's going on up there. But we also should learn what jobs are available in our federal civil service, and to encourage our young people to look ahead to these things—this is all part of this."

Robert Aloysius had the following to say:

"My only comment is that for the first time, I feel that I am doing something worth while in helping native people. Because I have lived in the problem areas, I never notices that they were problems until I left them. So, maybe, this Regional Job Development Conference will help us get rid of the problems, and like Laurel said, for the betterment of everybody living in Alaska."

Mrs. Bland is a graduate student attending the University of Alaska on an Alaska State Department of Education research assistantship in adult education and human relations.

She served as a publications committee chairman and conference committee coordinator for the present conference.

Robert Aloysius is the Fairbanks representative for the Commission for Human Rights.



LAUREL BLAND



ROBERT ALOYSIUS