

# ***AFN, Inc. Recognizes Problems—***

## **HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

### **(PART TWO)**

— Accepted the Bush Justice Monitoring Committee as a subcommittee of the Human Resources Committee. The Bush Justice Monitoring Committee was organized by resolution of the Second Bush Justice Conference held in Minto last June to secure the implementation of the many recommendations that resulted from the committee. The subcommittee has been meeting regularly and has secured an endorsement of a proposal to the Governor's Commission on the Administration of Justice funding the staff support and travel for the subcommittee and staff. The funds would come from the Law Enforcement Assistance Agency.

— Advocated that Satellite Communications be provided to all communities in Alaska. The committee believes the technology is there to provide the communities at a reasonable cost. The committee also felt the legislature should create a Public Communications Commission within the state. It would eliminate both the Office of Telecommunications and the Educational Broadcast Commission. The new commission would replace them and have regulatory authority and have the ability to analyze and develop a sound communications plan for use by the State of Alaska.

— Opposed the cutback of Public Law 874 funds for education in Alaska. The United States Department of Education recent-

ly announced the preferential rate for Alaska will no longer be in effect and will be cut back to 50% reimbursement during the next three years. Their reason for the cutback was because of the "improved economic conditions of Alaska." It was the committee's feeling that our economic condition will not improve until the latter part of this decade, when oil begins to flow, and a cutback today would hurt Alaska. Alaska had been reimbursed 100% since 1954 for students residing on Federal property and/or with a parent employed on Federal property. The committee is still waiting for word from the United States Department of Education of their decision.

— Co-sponsored conference on the Energy Crisis in rural Alaska and Alcoholism. Purpose of the Energy Commission was to determine rural Alaska's position on Energy before the Federal Energy Administration held hearings in Alaska. The purpose of the Conference on Alcoholism was to insure coordination and cooperation while attaching the disease of alcoholism and drug abuse, particularly along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. The committee was a strong voice advocating the conference not to forget the existing problems of alcoholism in rural Alaska at the expense of a new problem area along the Pipeline corridor.

(To be continued in two weeks)