

Second Phase— Health Conference

The Second Phase of the Rural Health Conference is scheduled to get under way in Anchorage on Oct. 28, 29 and 30, 1974. State Senator John Sackett is this year's chairman of the Statewide Conference and Dr. Edward Martin, Department of Health, Education and Welfare will be the keynote speaker.

Of major significance at this year's Health Conference will be the introduction of the Statewide Health Care Policy Statement, a document outlining the justification, need and procedure for Alaskan Natives to control their own health destiny in pursuit of self-determination.

The policy statement was a combined effort of the Health Affairs Division and the Association of Regional Health Directors.

Carl Jack, director, states that with the possibility of minor revisions, he hopes the Health Care Policy Statement will be ratified at the conference as the acceptable policy of all the Native Regions.

In other health activities, Don Bantz, director of the Health Careers Development Program, has announced the award of a \$15,600 contract to the Kodiak Island Area Health Authority for the purpose of assisting Natives interested in advanced health careers.

There are, he states, eight or 10 other similar contracts being negotiated with regional health authorities.

Joe Notaro, program analyst of the Health Affairs Program, has been promoted to assistant director. He replaced Trefon Angasan who has returned to Dillingham.

Notaro, who came to Alaska after several years with the Denver Indian Center has been instrumental in regenerating interest in Rural Satellite Communications; developing an emergency Medical Services Program package and more recently, investigating complaints of deplorable water and sewer sanitation conditions in the Kotzebue and Bethel areas, and identifying ways to correct those serious problems.