

NCAI picks Gordon Jackson

Gordon Jackson, executive vice-president, Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. recently received word of his election as Alaska area vice president, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).

"I intend to accept this position and use it to feed Alaska Federation of Natives' and region's positions into the nationwide Indian organization. I personally believe it has been one of our weaknesses as a statewide organization — we haven't been in touch or utilized nationwide organizations to advocate our priorities," said Jackson.

"Examples of what happens when we aren't involved in nationwide discussions include; being left out of proposed Indian legislation, or situations like the definition of "Indian tribe" in Public Law 93-638.

"As the definition now reads, there could be as many as 465 tribes in Alaska and each Alaskan Native

could be a member of at least four, if not five tribes.

"With the tribal consent provision as a prerequisite listed in the Indian Self Determination and Educational Assistance Act, one tribe may conceivably veto a contract therefore making it impossible to implement PL 93-638 here in Alaska.

"The current language of PL 93-638 was pushed by nationwide Indian organizations and they didn't really understand that our delivery system is through non-profit Native associations, not through the Indian tribal governments as is the case in the 'Lower 48.' If we would have been present I am certain this would not have happened."

An Alaska area vice president, Jackson will now sit on the NCAI Executive Committee. Their first meeting was scheduled for Dec. 11, 12, 1975 in Salt Lake City, Utah.