

# **Alaska Native Education Assn. formed at convention**

On November 11 and 12, 50 Alaska Native educators met at the Anchorage Westward Hotel during the Alaska Federation of Natives convention and organized the Alaska Native Education Assn. (ANEA). The newly-formed group elected Dennis Demmert acting chairman. Demmert is director of Native Studies at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

"Education has not served Native people well," Demmert said, "and it's time to recognize that much of the failure is in the educational system. Native students are the victims—not the causes—of bad education. We certainly don't have all the answers, but Native educators have seen the process from both sides, and there are enough of us now to start providing our insights regarding the problems. The main purpose of ANEA is to get Native educators involved in educational policy making."

Koniag, Inc., the Native corporation for the Kodiak area, donated \$750 to assist ANEA in organizing. Byron Mallott, president of the AFN, pledged his assistance to the new group.

ANEA is scheduling a charter meeting in Anchorage on January 14 and is inviting all Native educators to participate. Flore Lekanof, who is principal in the Anchorage School System, will be coordinating the charter meeting. The new group will then have a convention in Anchorage in March.