



# RurAL-CAP

## ACTION REPORTS



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## Nixon Administration Orders Agencies Not to Discriminate on Jobs

The Nixon administration has ordered federal agencies not to discriminate against minorities but will not pressure them to hire members of minorities, according to the chairman of the Civil Service Commission, Robert E. Hampton.

As reported by the Associated Press, Hampton said the administration feels such pressure amounts to discrimination in reverse.

He said that the pressure of previous administrations to hire minorities often resulted in filling lower ranks with people who had no place to go.

Recruiting, he said, is being expanded into areas where minorities live or attend school.

He added that about one-fifth of 2.6 million federal workers are of minority heritage, the bulk in low-paying jobs.

For those already hired, there is upward mobility training espe-

cially designed for people who are willing to try after hours to improve their verbal or typing or other skills.

"This is the only way you're going to solve the problem in the long run," he said. He added that increasing the civil service pool of unskilled workers is a favor to no one although he said some people like those kinds of jobs.

The Civil Service chairman under the Johnson administration, John W. Macy, Jr., said Oct. 21, 1968 that his agency had been accused of favoring unqualified people who are poor, or black, or disadvantaged in some other way, over qualified people who are not."

But he said, this was not lowering standards but "trying to bring standards closer to job requirements to give the disadvantaged an even break."

## State, OEO Meeting for State Involvement In Community Action Programs in Alaska

The State of Alaska is negotiating with the Office of Economic Opportunity for partial state involvement in community action programs, according to a March 10 article in the New York Times.

If an agreement is reached, OEO might be testing Alaska's capacity to conduct rural planning, poverty research and data gathering, and management of Federal manpower training funds.

And, if so, RurAL CAP will probably be affected for much of the OEO money in Alaska is received by the agency.

According to the Times story, Alaska is one of 15 states now in such negotiations with OEO.

An announcement on the first experiment of this type was reported to be coming soon and is to be in Oklahoma.

Outsiders familiar with the OEO plan reacted sharply to it. One Congressional figure charged that it was a foot in the door to further dismantling OEO. Another said that the plan amounts to a back-door surrender to what the agency had fought against on Capitol Hill.

Last fall, the House considered a proposal that would have given control over plans and grant approvals to the states. OEO worked against the proposal and it was narrowly defeated.

OEO director Donald Rumsfeld, in reply to the sharp reactions, noted that he had said all along that the agency should be moving toward closer cooperation with the states.

The community action program, an outgrowth of Johnson's war on poverty program, has sought to develop locally controlled organizations in disadvantaged neighborhoods, answerable directly to the Office of Economic Opportunity.

City and state governments, the Times article stated, were intentionally bypassed on the premise that they traditionally had been largely unresponsive to

the needs of the poor.

This aspect of the program provoked wide controversy, which led two years ago to a provision for control by local governments that wanted it.

There are now about 930 community action agencies across the country, about ten per cent of which have come under local government control.

In the Oklahoma experiment, OEO retains final signoff on grants and the power to monitor and supervise state performance, the Times article said.

The OEO official in charge of the community action, Frank Carlucci, implied that the Oklahoma program will serve as a testing ground for more state involvement nationwide.

A community action official said that the experiment was disturbing because it runs counter to the original concept of community action.

He criticized the atmosphere of secrecy in which the plan was developed. He said community action directors in Oklahoma had not been consulted about it and would not be until after the experiment is announced.

### Scope Statewide—

## RurAL-CAP Cultural Heritage Project Progresses

Mr. Gordon Jackson, Program Specialist for the Development of Human Resources Department of RurAL CAP has announced progress toward the implementation of a state-wide Cultural Heritage Project.

At a meeting on March 9, 1970, it was decided the Cultural Heritage Group and the Regional Directors and Area Community Developers from RurAL CAP's nine regional development corporations would complete incorporation on March 17th during the Alaska Training and Planning Centers training session on Program Development.

In the month of March, after incorporation, the Human Resources Department plans to develop a proposal to be submitted to every possible funding source available. This will be completed by the end of March.

In April, it is hoped enough funds will have been secured to hire a "temporary" Native Director and secretary. The temporary staff would make plans for the Cultural Corporation's first board meeting.

The board would then hire a permanent Native Director and secretary, select boundaries and modes of selecting the board members, by-laws, and project priorities.

The main purpose of this non-profit cultural corporation, administered and managed by a staff consisting of a native majority would carry out activities and work programs to revive interest and preserve the six major cultures of the State of Alaska.

Suggested projects are the taping of legends, stories and the history of the various cultures before the elderly storytellers die; a history book to inform the non-native and native alike of the vast history of the Native Alaskans; written diagrams of the an-

cient dances to the younger generation who will be able to continue their use, and the preparation of an Arts and Crafts Handbook containing instructions on such things as totem carving, the making of a war canoe, ivory carving, silver work, how to sew a parka, and other forms of art work.

Art shows displaying native arts and crafts will also be shown throughout the State by the corporation. The items in this proposed art show would be collected or borrowed from museums by the corporation.

The sale of native items such as the proposed booklet on Arts and Crafts, a booklet of native legends and myths, the history

book and various art objects would be used as a fund for scholarships and grants to native art students attending college or art school.

The money could also be used to train an artisan to teach the subjects in colleges, high schools and elementary schools throughout the state.

Of vast importance would be a public information system informing the non-native and natives of various aspects regarding the six major cultural groups in the State.

This will bring back lost pride in the native and inform the non-native of the arts and crafts, history and other important aspects of the six cultures.

## Regional Boards Encouraged To Subscribe to Tundra Times

RurAL CAP is encouraging each of its nine regional boards to subscribe to the Tundra Times, which is now the agency's only statewide vehicle for public information.

The anti-poverty agency headquartered in Anchorage had been publishing Action Reports—a newsletter distributed to all of the agency's centers. However, the publication was discontinued this year.

An agreement was made with the Tundra Times to provide the agency with a weekly page in the newspaper—the first page being in the Feb. 6, 1970 issue. For this reason, RurAL CAP feels it is essential that the members of its regional boards receive the newspaper.

Thus, it has suggested that regional directors review and evaluate the regional budgets to see if and where the cost of subscribing can be absorbed.

If, after such a review and evaluation, the director finds that the regional budget cannot absorb the cost, he is asked to contact the central office, which will attempt to secure the needed financial support from the central office, which will attempt to secure the needed financial support from the central agency budget.

Also, all regional directors are encouraged to submit weekly news articles to the central office or, if they choose, directly to the Tundra Times.

## Would Help Fishery—RurAL-CAP Supports Homer Dock Extension

RurAL CAP has just reviewed and supported an application from the City of Homer to the Economic Development Administration for the extension of their existing public dock.

The City of Homer has made great strides toward rebuilding itself since the disastrous earthquake of 1964, but there is still no question that unemployment, both in Homer and the surrounding area still remains a problem.

One of the major factors in unemployment is that fishermen in the area do not have the physical facilities necessary to maintain and continue an adequate

### RurAL-CAP Slated

### To Move to New Offices

The RurAL CAP offices will move during the second week of April to different office space, located at 1020 I Street, Anchorage. The telephone number and mailing address will remain the same.

This move is necessitated by the rising rents in the central business district of Anchorage, but one advantage of the move will be the availability of more working space per person, than is presently available.

As the telephone company will be making installations during this time, please excuse any difficulties you may have in reaching us.

fishery.

Fishermen in the area, as a significant percentage of the population would greatly benefit if there were a dock at Homer capable of handling a fishery.

The other important part of the Homer Dock application is that it would keep the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter IRONWOOD in Homer, which is not only responsible for a great deal of direct employment in the community and the surrounding area, but also injects a sizeable sum of money into the area.

The Coast Guard performs many vital services, particularly to fishermen and the removal of this ship might someday be tragically counted in loss of lives.

## Next Regular Meeting to Be At Central Office

The next regular meeting of the Executive Committee of RurAL Alaska Community Action Program, Inc., will be held in the RurAL CAP central office, on Friday, March 20, 1970, at 1:30 p.m.

To be discussed during the course of the meeting will be the Operation Mainstream phase-out a report from VISTA, and the Cultural Heritage Program development. A firm date for the Kodiak Board meeting will also be discussed.