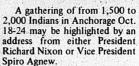
Around 2,000 Expected—

Great NCAl Meet In Anchorage



Spiro Agnew.

The occassion will be the 27th Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians. The congress represents 180 Indian tribes throughout

the nation.
According to Don Wright, Alaska area vice president of NCAI, the President's plans will not be made known prior to the convention due to Secret Service

Headed by Earl Oldperson of the Blackfeet Tribe of Browning, Mont., the congress will open the week-long convention Monday, Oct. 19 with a welcoming address from Gov. Keith Miller and Anchorage Mayor George

Sullivan.
On Tuesday at 2 p.m. the Indian and Eskimo delegates in full traditional dress will parade through downtown Anchorage to the Sports Arena where an Indian and Eskimo potlatch din-

Tuesday night, the congress

will hold a meeting at the arena where natives and non natives may speak out on issues they feel should be discussed during

the convention.
Indians and Eskimos will compete in olympic sports competition. Thursday night in the Sports Arena. The events will include seal skinning and fish cutting contests and other traditional games of skill and endur-

Following the election of na-tional officers Friday and the conclusion of business sessions, traditional dance competition of war dances and other dances from all parts of the country will be held in the arena.

The convention will close Sat-urday night at 8 o'clock with final competitions for events and trophies for the winners.

G.C. "Gus" Wallace, Confiden-tial Assistant to the Administrator of Veteran Affairs, has been named secretary-treasurer of the President's Veterans Day National Committe in Washington, D.C.

Kansas educator Theodore Shack-elford has been appointed to VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Edu-cation Advisory Committee.

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COLLEGE-Group from Dillingham High School, with advisers, during a visit to the University of Alaska's campus at College enroute to a five-month study tour of Japan paid for out of Dill-

ingham school district funds. The students are juniors and seniors and for many of them it is their first glimpse of the world outside of the Bristol Bay area.

FAA Announces High Frequency Changes in Radio

In line with a worldwide September 16th. ICAO plan, FAA announces that a number of high frequency changes became effective at 3 p.m. Alaska Standard Time on

The changes are: 8939 KHz to 8938 KHz; 8905 KHz to 8903 KHz; 5544 KHz to 5631 KHz;

and 2931 KHz to 2861 KHz.

. The purpose of these changes is to eliminate interference on aeronautical frequencies.

Additional Facts on VISTA's Ending

By SUSAN TAYLOR Staff Writer

The VISTA program was shut down in Alaska about two months ago, but additional facts surrounding its termination need to be pointed out even now

On July 22, the Tundra Times carried an article explaining that the VISTA program in Alaska had pulled its 75 volunteers out of the villages by June 15 due to a lack of funding by the State Legislature. The remaining eight VISTA lawyers were to termin-

ate their work September 15.

The State has been sponsoring the program since its intro-duction into Alaska. It appro-priated about \$60,000 last year for supplies, telephone expenses, office space, travel and the sal-office space, travel and the sal-aries of a coordinator, an assis-tant and a secretary. All other expenses were paid by the Office of Economic Opportunity. The VISIA staff requested \$85,000 from the State Legis-lative for next year but was

lature for next year but was turned down completely. In response to the Tundra Times article, an ex-volunteer, Jeffrey Smith pointed out in a Jettrey Smith pointed out in a letter to the newspaper that the 75 VISTA volunteers were pulled out June 15, one to three months early, not due to a lack of funding but due to a decision of the VISTA staff.

It was not until after June 15 that the legislature needs its decision.

that the legislature made its de-

According to Smith, the vol-unteers all received letters in May informing them of the early termination.

Acknowledging this to be the case, Jerry White, director of the State Economic Opportunity Office, explained that the program was closed down early in order to acknowledge the many problems and concerns expressed by

rather than State control. AVCF represents about 51 villages in the Bethel area.

Early termination, White wrote, would have allowed the Alaska VISTA staff to devote their full time and attention to performing the necessary plan-ning and program development, with special emphasis on obtaining input from anti-poverty a-gencies, Native leaders, village councils. Native organizations and regional VISTA.

"This input was needed to redirect the VISTA program toward meaningful goals. This redirection was needed because of the problems that had developed the program during past

These plans had already been made when the legislature acted.

White added that June was felt to be the appropriate time for early termination because then many of the villagers mi-grate to other areas for seasonal work, thus "drastically curtail-ing possible activities of the volunteers

Why then did the legislature cut out the program when staff members had plans to reorganize it?

According to the statements of White and Willie Allen, former coordinator of the program, it is possible that the legislature

did not even know of these plans. No one connected with the program was called to testify before the committee, either to de-fend or criticize it, White and Allen said

Also, White wrote, funds were deleted from the budget in the House Finance Committee "based on the sentiments of two legislators who were from areas where volunteers were serving. Other members of the commit-tee felt," he said, "that if the legislators who should know the most about VISTA were not in

of state officials, was not responding to the felt and expres-sed needs of the urban and rural poor in their control of the VISTA network in Alaska.

"I think my year in Alaska a Volunteer In Service To America was productive in terms of what the volunteers who supported the abolishment of state

"VISTA," he added, "is dead unless the people are allowed to bring it back in their hands."

Also, in response to the July article, ex-volunteer Smith conarticle, ex-volunteer Smith con-tended that a new sponsor would not find taking over the pro-gram as financially difficult as VISTA staff had implied. In response, White said that perhaps the volunteer was cor-rect in his assumption.

But, based upon the State's accumulation over a period of five years of office equipment, a new sponsor would have to make a capital outlay in excess of \$10,000 to maintain an equal level of activity, he continued

level of activity, he continued.

White added that he recognized the job could be done for less but said that he believed "a decrease in resource would be reflected in the quality present."



