



STUDY ASKS GOVT. AGENCIES FOR INCREASED NATIVE HIRE



FLOOD AFTERMATH—Nenana, a small town 50 miles south of Fairbanks, suffered heavily during the great flood in Alaska's interior. Picture shows a portion of the town two weeks after the flood crest, a telltale evidence of the height of the water table.

In the center of the picture, note lighter shades on houses the water reached at flood crest. A submerged car can be seen at the right foreground.

—AMERICAN RED CROSS Photo by MAC SLEE

AFN Constitution Fails Concept: Mallott

327 Highland Drive
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
September 1, 1967

Mr. Emil Notti, President
Alaska Federation of Natives
Box 3408
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Emil:

Over the course of the summer I have had the opportunity to speak with a great number of the leaders of various regional Native associations. Almost unanimously they have felt the need for the upcoming October conference of the Alaska Federation of Natives to be a Constitutional Convention.

From what I have been able to ascertain in my conversations with these statewide Native leaders a Constitutional Convention is necessary for several reasons. These being:

(Continued on Page 2)

SBA Liberalizes Loans To Area Flood Victims

Senator E. L. Bartlett said this week, "What Small Business Administration is doing now is geared for quick operation to make money available to the flood victims."

One important development was the liberalization, a "quick credit" to private

citizens whose homes have been damaged by the recent flood. "Unsecured" loans up to \$3,000 were made available "for winterization of flooded homes to make the houses habitable for cold weather."

This loan will enable the

(Continued on page 2)

Continuing Rain Worries Nenana Flood Victims

NENANA, ALASKA, August 31.—Slow, cold rain came to flood-beaten Nenana today, bringing an unwanted slowdown in this small Tanana Valley community's race to get back on their feet before winter freeze arrives.

The rain was a big subject of conversation at the busy Red Cross headquarters in the Assembly of God Church on Nenana's home town, where everyone agreed that even a little rain was a tragedy for people who are using every waking hour to dry out and clean up their homes.

Several blocks away from the Red Cross office, in a neat cleaned up white frame house in the midst of a small complex of log cabins, workshops and tool sheds, Mrs. Rita Lord looked at the muddy tracks made by her grandchildren on a floor which had already been scrubbed clean four times and hoped for the rain's end.

Heat was pouring through the cleaned-up house from a heater outside, and the entire house was neat as a pin, with even potted plants neatly in place on shelves and

(Continued on page 6)

Now But One-Tenth Of 14,000 Federal Workers are Native

"This staff study describes how federal agencies can increase employment opportunities for Alaska's Natives and is but one of several efforts of the Federal Field Committee aimed at developing policy suggestions which would contribute to an improvement of those circumstances under which Alaska's largest and most disadvantaged minority lives."

Thus states the staff study entitled, **ALASKA NATIVES AND FEDERAL HIRE**, authored by Robert D. Arnold and Esther G. Wunnicke for the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska with field offices in Anchorage, Alaska.

The 77-page study is in the process of being reviewed by the President's Review Committee for Development Planning in Alaska in Washington, D. C.

"The Federal Field Committee," the study continued, "fully endorses this staff study for it believes that, by

providing job and training opportunities, federal agencies can make an important contribution to the advancement of the Alaska Natives and at the same time meet their needs for a stable work force."

The study stressed the fact that the federal government is the largest employer in Alaska with more than 14,000 workers on its rolls but that fewer than one federal employee of ten is an Alaska Native.

"Eskimos, Indians, and Aleuts make up more than one-fifth of Alaska's civilian population, but they hold fewer than one-tenth of the jobs in the state. Their unemployment rate—based upon a labor force estimated at about 16,500—is a staggering 60 per cent," the staff study said. "Being jobless, these Alaska Natives live in poverty and suffer its consequences."

The report also stressed that if more native people

(Continued on page 6)

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Editorial— Staff Study . . . An Important Proposal

The "Staff Study" entitled, **ALASKAN NATIVES & FEDERAL HIRE**, authored by Robert D. Arnold and Esther C. Wunnicke for Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska, is an important and far-reaching proposal. If implemented, it would have tremendous impact in the enhancement of the economy of our native people and at the same time, it would enhance the economy of the state as a whole. The native people, being largely permanent and non-fluent portion of the population of Alaska, would certainly help the money they earn to circulate within the state and which would benefit businesses as well.

The study asks the President's Review Committee for Development Planning in Alaska in Washington, D. C., that the federal government hire more native people in its vast chain of agencies in Alaska. With over 14,000 workers in its rolls, the federal government is the largest employer in the state. But at the present time, however, less than one federal employee of ten is an Alaska native. This is a low ratio considering that

(Continued on Page 2)