

culture and an effective person operates out of a highly organized sense of self.

Given the opportunity through a generous native land claims settlement, we the native people of Alaska will support the following kinds of programs:

(1) That early childhood educational programs be made available to all communities in Alaska desiring such a program. Headstart classes have been operated successfully for 2 years in 52 native villages. There are over 200 villages desiring same. We recommend that the local native language be fully utilized in the preschool program.

(2) That priority be given to the local people to teach on the preschool level. This has been proven successful in the Headstart program. The local person more fully understands and appreciates the linguistic and cultural heritage of the village.

(3) That there be a continued operation of the teacher aide training program by the Anchorage Community College to prepare helpers in the elementary classroom. This program has been cosponsored by the BIA and Manpower Development Training Agency. Headstart teacher training program was also conducted by the same administration with funds provided by OEO.

(4) Immediate consideration should be given a plan to expand the program by including, in addition to the aide training as offered previously, two additional steps for teachers' assistants and teachers' associates.

More advanced training for them would meet the expressed needs of a number of Alaskan teacher aides. It would represent a realistic beginning for some who wish to become teachers but who could not now enroll in a continuous baccalaureate program.

Among educational institutions in the United States which have responded to a similar aide-inspired need is St. Petersburg Junior College in Florida, which offers a 1-year terminal career program for teachers' aides.

(5) That changes be made in the educational curriculum so that a youngster on the village level may be offered formal education through the 10th grade. This will allow the child to be with his parents for a longer period during his educational career. Many children and parents are psychologically upset by having to separate 9 months out of the year. Many family units are disturbed to the point of "non-return" during these absent periods.

(6) That regional high schools with 2 years of past high school years be made available in the following areas: Aleutian Islands, Bristol Bay, Bethel, Kotzebue, Barrow, Galena, Fort Yukon, Southeastern (Mount Edgecumbe), and Tok. This will allow students to go home for occasional visits or parents to visit at the school. This will make a secondary education more obtainable for those who would ordinarily drop out because of family and geographic problems. The 2 years beyond the high school will permit those students who are not collegebound to train in the fields appropriate to the regional area, such as electronics, heavy equipment operation and maintenance, building skills, fisheries, and so forth. This would also permit those who are collegebound to receive credits transferable to the college of their choice.