

particular needs of all Native villages in Alaska. When it comes to social problems and economics, there is a greater difference between Barrow and the Aleutian Islands than there is between New Jersey and Arkansas. (The mileage between Barrow and the outer Aleutian Islands equals the mileage between Washington, D.C. and Colorado.) It is almost inconceivable that an enormous centralized superstructure located in Anchorage or Juneau would be able to formulate and carry out projects which would meet the real needs of the Natives living in Kiana and Kokhanok. As a matter of fact, if the Board of Directors contains only four Natives, it is most unlikely that any director would have ever been in Kiana or Kokhanok -- or anywhere near those villages.

The Alaska Natives are, in fact, several ethnic groups living in several definable regions with different economies, heritages and social structures. Although they are completely united on the lands issue, they do not wish to become homogenized; they wish to maintain their differences and meet their real local needs.

Accordingly, AFN proposes that instead of one huge state-wide corporation, there be regional corporations which would be better equipped to fill existing needs. For example, if the Eskimos of Kiana feel that their primary need is to have trail markers pointing out the path between their village and the next, so that a traveler would not