

# Rural meet in Juneau

Nearly 30 rural delegates and an undetermined number of participants will gather in Juneau next week for the 1978 Citizens Participation Conference.

The conference, sponsored by the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP), will begin on Thursday, February 23, and run through Saturday, February 25.

As in past years, the purpose of the conference is to involve rural Alaskans in the legislative process and to forge a consensus on legislation most important to the delegates and their regions and villages. RurAL CAP sponsors the conference under a contract from the State Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Delegates appointed by regional non-profit Native corporations will have voting powers to prioritize bush legislation for the 1978 session. And, in order to familiarize delegates with the legislative process, Don Clocksin of Alaska Legal Services will conduct an orientation on the opening day of the conference.

According to Phil Smith, executive director of RurAL CAP, the three day conference will focus on five specific areas to be addressed in a workshop format: Subsistence/Fish and Game Management; Rural Education; Energy; Local Government; and Alcoholism. In addition, briefings will be held on timely issues such as the Permanent Fund and the capital move.

RurAL CAP President Gordon Jackson will open the conference with a "State of Rural Alaska" address. The presentation will be in response to rural needs as viewed by RurAL CAP, similar to the Governor's annual "State of the State" message.

State officials and legislators have been invited to attend the conference which will culminate with a Saturday morning brunch to present the conference report.