

# Dr. Jean Malaurie eyes Arctic future

Dr. James Malaurie, professor at the Sorbonne who is widely recognized for his work among the Eskimos of Greenland and Siberia, is taking his 40-day spring vacation in Alaska this year.

As director of the Centre d'Etudes Arctiques in Paris and head of a UNESCO cultural program, he is already quite familiar with Alaska.

He once lived in Savoonga for several months and recently made a film in Shishmaref, but this trip is being made with an eye to the future.

"The Arctic may be the last place ever where man has to face reality and plan to organize," he considers. And Malaurie is nervous about the future.

"An extraordinary adventure," is what he calls the Alaska Native Claims settlement. "If you lose, you lose everything. That means you have to succeed. When it's the last battle in any showdown you have to be well aware of what will happen.

"Alaskan Natives have faced this in an extraordinary way;

adjusted even though they did not have the education, but that was the first stage. The next stage means education — economic independence . . . Basically you must produce what you eat!"

What's needed, he thinks, "is an artificial market such as they have (for the reindeer industry) in Siberia or (farm subsidy) in the Lower 48.

"But they (the Alaskan Natives) have no time. They face so many problems in so short a time. Right now they have a lot of money but no solidarity. In France we have a proverb — divide and conquer."

The most important basic, as Dr. Malaurie sees it, is education, and he is very much at odds at the current white-value oriented system.

"In Nome I met a remarkable Eskimo wizard (shaman). He told me, 'We don't need the white man! We don't need buildings! The tundra will be our university!'

"That's very wise. The Eskimos still have their own judgment. They don't have to be taught to think."

And, armed with the recent

speech by Barrow Mayor Eben Hopson, which has the same tone as the Nome 'wizard,' Dr. Malaurie headed toward Barrow to continue his survey.