

Resolution for \$1 million winterization funds passed by RurAL CAP board in Juneau

The RurAL CAP Board of Directors met in Juneau on Feb. 23-24 and held what proved to be one of the most successful, productive and well-attended meetings in RurAL CAP's history.

Mary Stachelrodt, director of Rural Energy, gave a recap of the Winterization Program which included a presentation on the bar graph the RurAL CAP Energy Office prepared, and how funds can be distributed equitably to the various regions. A resolution was passed by the board regarding the distribution of the anticipated \$1 million winterization funds.

interested in advocating a better transportation system in rural Alaska; it was therefore recommended that the presidents of Alaska Airlines, Reeve Aleutian Airlines, and Wien Air Alaska be invited to attend and participate in our May meeting.

Phil Smith, executive director of RurAL CAP, reported that a grant application has been submitted for a pilot project for developing treatment modalities for children suffering from loss of hearing, a program of the Child Development section of RurAL CAP.

A Job Opportunities Grant for \$250,000 has been received to hire aides and other staff to supplement Head Start programs; there are 36 positions being funded.

Other important action included the recommendation that RurAL CAP staff undertake a major effort to provide technical assistance to regional groups who are experiencing fiscal and administrative problems and that this effort be coordinated with AFN and CEDC.

With respect to the governor's Alaska Growth Policy Council in which the governor requested that the RurAL CAP Board submit their recommendations for his consideration, the board recommended that the names of Herb Smelcer and Paul Gregory be submitted.

Guest speakers included Sue Greene, special assistant to the governor, who addressed several areas of concern to the RurAL CAP Board. These included funding for Head Start programs; the Kotzebue Pioneers Home; and the controversial Molly Hootch issue.

Another area of board concern regarded the development of state policy toward the rural economy. Mrs. Greene stated that the governor's office has transferred authority for the development of such a policy to the Division of Policy & Planning in the governor's office.

Jim Edenso, deputy commissioner of the Department of Commerce & Economic Development, apprised the board on their concern as it relates to the Fisheries and Energy Task Forces. Board members expressed their concern about the quality of fisheries forecasting being done by Fish & Game biologists.

Edenso stated that his department is very involved in the whole question of rural economy and requested that the board provide him with some direction for the development of policy.

It was the consensus of opinion that the May board meeting, which will be held in Cordova, focus on air transportation problems being experienced by rural Alaskans.

The RurAL CAP Board is very