



RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS

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RurAL CAP BOARD MEETING HELD IN JUNEAU

Phil Smith Meets with Governor

Two days after being hired as RurAL CAP Executive Director, Phil Smith met with Governor Hammond in Juneau last week to discuss the severe implications to Alaska of President Ford's proposed budget cuts for the Community Services Administration (formerly the Office of Economic Opportunity).

Others at the meeting included Marco Pignalberri and Bill Gordon, both special assistants to the governor, and Mike Harper and Eric Lee from the State Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

"Although the cuts will not effect RurAL CAP directly until next year," stated Smith, "they pose an immediate threat to the Division of State Economic Opportunity, the Older Persons' Action Group in Anchorage, Alaska Village Electrical Co-Op, and the experimental project being conducted by the Kenai Native Association. Several hundred thousand dollars for Alaska's poverty population are jeopardized."

Hammond mentioned that he had already sent a telegram to Alaska's Congressional Delegation on Feb. 7, requesting a continuation of all funding for the CSA, and indicated that he would try to get the problem on the agenda at the National Governors' Conference in Washington, D.C. "I think I can speak for all who attended," said Smith, "in saying that we appreciated the governor's obvious concern for the needs of the state's poverty population. It was gratifying that he could take this time from his busy schedule to share this concern with us."



NEW CAP DIRECTOR — Phil Smith, recently hired by RurAL CAP Board to head the State-wide anti-poverty program.

Smith New RurAL CAP Director

The RurAL CAP Board of Directors, at their recent meeting in Juneau, hired Phil Smith to head the organization. Smith was hired by the agency two years ago as deputy director, and has shown great dedication to the anti-poverty program that covers almost all of Alaska.

A resident since his first year, the 32-year-old director graduated from Cordova High School in 1960 and subsequently attended the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, Mt. Angel Seminar in Oregon, the University of Washington in Seattle, and received his BA in political science from Golden Gate College in San Francisco.

He also attended the U.S. Army Medical Center in Ft. Sam Houston, Texas during a three-year enlistment.

Smith has had a varied career in jobs dealing with TV, and Video Tape production, including writing, and also radio. His other work was connected with earning money for college, such as commercial fishing and cannery work in Cordova where he lived, and fire-fighting.

Volunteer activities have included work with the United Farm Workers' Organizing

Committee in San Francisco, and Black Theatre in Seattle. His wife Debbie, has taught theatre for the past six years at the UAA/ACC, stressing costume design.

They're both well-known in Anchorage, having been members of the Board of Lyric Opera theatre and also the Anchorage Community Chorus. The Smiths have a son, Crispian, who will soon be three.

In accepting the position, Smith stated: "During the two years that I've served as deputy director, I've been enormously impressed by the dedication of the board and the entire staff to the principles of Community Action. I hope that we will be no less dedicated to those principles in the years to come."

Citing a hostile National Administration and rapid development in Alaska, Smith added, "Of course, it won't be easy. But if the village people and the regions continue their support, I think we can all look forward to the day that the rural Alaskan people, firmly grounded in their own culture, will be able to fully participate in our nation's political system and economic wealth."

Lieutenant Governor L. Thomas Attends

For the fifth consecutive year, the RurAL CAP Board of Directors has met in Juneau, this year on February 10 and 11. The other three meetings of the year are divided, with one in Anchorage, and two in outlying communities, on invitation.

The meeting was opened by Gordon Jackson, President. The Lieutenant Governor of Alaska, Lowell Thomas, Jr., visited the Tuesday session and informed members that the Governor had made appointments to fill the three slots designated for his office on the RurAL CAP Board.

Seated on the board were: Michael C. Harper, Deputy Director of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs; Walter Parker, Commissioner of the State Department of Highways; and Bill Gordon, Special Assistant to the Governor.

Mr. Thomas assured the board that the Governor is aware of and very sympathetic to problems in the rural areas. He also mentioned that the Governor had opened an office in Bethel.

John C. Finley, Regional Director of the Community Services Administration, was present with Charles Hodges, CSA representative to Alaska. Mr. Finley discussed the new Community Services Act of 1974 that replaces the Office of Special Opportunity which funded Community Action Programs.

Although there is no increase in funding, Mr. Finley was optimistic and urged continuation of the primary concern of the program, advocacy for the poor and helping them become self-sufficient in this society, and part of it.

The board hired Phil Smith as

executive director to replace Mike Harper who resigned in early January, and the agency is currently advertising for the position of deputy director which Smith vacated.

In other action, the board endorsed HB 26 that would create regional electrical associations which would provide the framework to issue bonds, and SB 120 regarding Day Care Facilities. It was urged that the bill be passed by the Legislature immediately.

A number of resolutions were passed, one in favor of legislation to ease the impact of the energy crisis in rural Alaska, and another in support of requiring cultural impact statements as a pre-condition to development projects in the state.

The RurAL CAP Board felt that the Governor should be empowered to declare an Energy Emergency and to direct all State agencies, including the Alaska Disaster Office and the Air National Guard, to immediately respond. Also, that the Legislature should appropriate two million dollars for a low-interest revolving loan fund to install bulk fuel storage in villages.

As a parallel to the National Environmental Protection Act which requires that federally approved projects must include an environmental impact statement as a precondition to their approval, it was urged that a cultural impact statement accompany development projects in Alaska.

With the accelerated development of the state's natural resources, existing and proposed projects are already having a serious negative effect on Alaska's rich and diverse Native cultures.

Board members said impact statements so far have only considered the natural environment, overlooking social, economic and cultural implications, and that residents of the affected regions should have input.

Visitors to the meeting included: Lt. Gov. Lowell Thomas, Jr., Representative Tim Wallis, John C. Finley, regional director, Community Services Administration, and Charles Hodges, Alaska Representative for CSA.

Also, Maben Triplett from Craig, vice president of the SEACAP Board; Eric Lee, director of the State Economic Opportunity Office; Reed Stoops, Lare, Barbara Hipsman, Evelyn Myers, Carl Evon, and Janet Wente, Phil Smith, executive director of RurAL CAP, and staff members Kay Moor, controller; Roger Mooney, director of Child Development, and Joe Meade Chief Administrative Services.

Also, Mary Stachelrodt, coordinator for the Energy Program, and Jacqueline Dailey, planner for the agency.

The next meeting was scheduled to be held in South Naknek during May.

State Policy Council Endorses Senate Bill 120

Senate Bill 120, relating to day care facilities for low-income families was endorsed at the RurAL CAP/Child Development State Policy Council meeting Feb. 7 and 8, in Anchorage.

Parent and agency representatives from throughout Alaska considered SB120 and other issues at the quarterly meeting at the Holiday Inn.

SB120 would provide day care for children of eligible parents provided the day care would free them to work or to attend school. Costs to the parent would be based on a sliding fee scale according to parent income.

Administration of the program would be by the Department of Community and Regional Affairs. Introducing the bill were Senators Bill Ray, Juneau; John Rader, Anchorage; Jalmer Kerttula, Palmer; Genie Chance, Anchorage; John Sackett, Galena; Pat Rodey, Anchorage, and Terry Miller, Fairbanks.

Paula Ayunerak of Alakanuk is chairperson of the State PC, representing the Bethel Health Aide Association. Alice Dooley of Kodiak is vice-chairperson. Other Executive Committee members are Carl Evon of Manokotak,

Katherine Hanlon of Hoonah and Dr. Helen Beirne of Anchorage.

In other action the State PC authorized the Child Development section to apply for Johnson-O'Malley funding for villages that will have too few children to receive Head Start funding for next year; heard a

report from Child Development Director Roger Mooney about efforts to secure state matching funds for the Head Start program; heard reports of village programs by their representatives.

Next meeting of the group is scheduled for April 23 and 24, in Anchorage.



CHAIRPERSON PAULA ATUNERAK of Alakanuk and Child Development Director Roger Mooney listen to a village presentation at the RurAL CAP/Child Development State Policy Council meeting in Anchorage February 7 and 8. The State PC gives direction to 30 rural Head Start Programs, three Anchorage H/S centers and Parent-Child Centers in Hoonah and Kotzebue.

SEACAP Board Holds Meeting

The Southeastern Alaska Community Action Program recently held its Board of Directors' meeting in Juneau on Feb. 12 and 13. As is true to some extent of other RurAL CAP regional corporations, the staff concentration is focussed on Limited Entry application assistance and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

Another area of importance to SeaCap is the Alcoholism program within that region.

Throughout the two-day session, program presentations were made by federal/state officials, with an informative question and answer exchange being held with Roger Rickey, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, on the numerous problems associated with the Limited Entry requirements.

One important issue under review is the possibility of an extension to the March 18, 1975 application deadline; it was stated that a decision has not been made as to whether an extension will be given.

Also in attendance were RurAL CAP staff members: Phil Smith, Jackie Dailey, Mary Stachelrodt, and CSA Chief of Operations (Region X), Charles Hodges.