

# Region X Director in 2-Day Visit

A visit by Mr. John Finley, Region X OEO Director, highlighted a two-day RurAL CAP Regional Directors meeting which was held in Anchorage on November 19 and 20. Mr. Finley gave a frank, realistic assessment of the chances for the survival of OEO beyond June, 1974.

Unless new laws extending the OEO are passed before that time, community action agencies throughout the nation will be without federal support for the first time since the creation of the Economic Opportunity Act in 1964.

Although Mr. Finley's appraisal of the situation was somewhat pessimistic, several of the RurAL CAP staff members took exception and stated that the spirit of OEO in Alaska was good and that at least the Alaska Congressional Delegation was very supportive of our programs and the Alaskan hopes were high for some type of continued anti-poverty program beyond June of 1974.

Also on the agenda was the discussion of Fish & Game throughout Alaska. Representatives from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game were present at the meeting, as well as Colonel James Goodfellow, who is in charge of enforcement of Fish and Wildlife Protection Laws with the Department of Public Safety.

Although no formal action was taken by the Regional Directors, most agreed that the session had been informative with many ideas exchanged between the Directors and State Officials.

The afternoon session saw a discussion of education in rural Alaska. Faced with the political issue of "local control," the instructional issues of bi-cultural and bilingual curricula, and other pressing educational needs, this was a good opportunity for the Directors to meet with some individuals who have been involved in these fields.

Present were Mr. Alton Hall, Associate Superintendent for instruction of State-Operated Schools, Judy Kleinfelt, from the Center for Northern Educational Research at the University, Lara Bernahart from BIA Education, and Peter Flisock from the Galena City Schools.

Discussion centered on problems of local control of education. Mr. Flisock superintendent of Galena City Schools, gave a presentation in which he strongly urged all communities with more than 400 population to incorporate as first class cities.

This would enable the community to form an independent school district. Also discussed was the potential impact of Regional Governments.

The RurAL CAP Regional Development Corporations have each produced a Regional plan based on their village priorities.

A consensus was made that the two or three main issues that were of concern state-wide include the question of decen-

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tralization of the bush education system as well as a deep concern over the subsistence rights of rural people.

Also, an attempt should be made to obtain an equitable distribution of state and federal revenue sharing into the bush communities.