



RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS



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RURAL REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS DISCUSSED

Irvin Hired as Trainer

George Irvin has been hired under a general staff training program which has been funded to the Rural Alaska Community Action Program by the Office of Economic Opportunity. The nine months' grant for \$30,000 will end January 31, 1972.

The program will train the staff of each regional corporation and its board of directors in all phases of management; board meetings and participation; planning systems and their implementation; and specific program and issue planning such as land rights, local government, etc.

Irvin is the former Community Representative for the Department of Health, Education

and Welfare, Office of Child Development in the Anchorage office where he has been stationed for the past ten months.

Prior to that time, he spent two years as the OEO representative to Alaska community action programs. He also spent two years in Peru as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Irvin has an AB Degree, and is working on his doctorate in Political Science.

The new trainer said he would be based in Anchorage working with the community action program, but would be traveling extensively in the regions working with the regional boards, staffs, and VISTA Volunteers.

Emergency Food Program of CAP Funded

"The emergency food and medical services program of RurAL CAP has received an important grant of \$70,000 from the Office of Economic Opportunity," Senator Ted Stevens announced today.

"In addition, RurAL CAP's alcoholic recovery and counseling programs have also received an 18-month grant of \$150,000 from OEO. I welcome the award of these funds to Alaska. They are helping to solve some of our most severe health problems and are urgently needed."

Local Affairs Agency, RurAL CAP Take Part

RurAL CAP Executive Director John Shively attended a conference sponsored by the Local Affairs Agency on the weekend of June 18-19.

The conference, called by Local Affairs Director Byron I. Mallott, was held in Gustavson to discuss future directions that the Local Affairs Agency might take in dealing with governmental bodies in Alaska.

Also attending the conference was the full staff of the Local Affairs Agency; Atty. General John Havelock; State Director of Planning and Research, Bob Pavitt; State Assessor Bob Dozier; Executive Director of the Municipal League, Don Berry; State Representative Dick Whittaker of Ketchikan, Gregg Machyowsky of the Legislative Affairs Agency, Billy Barrier, Borough Attorney from Greater Juneau Borough and Vic Fischer, Director, Institute of Social, Economic and Governmental Research University of Alaska.

Although the meeting covered all aspects of government in Alaska, the major emphasis was in government for the rural areas. All those present recognized the need for some form of regional government in rural Alaska.

It was acknowledged that the borough system, as it is presently constituted, has not worked for rural Alaska and there is no other form of regional government available under Alaska law.

There was considerable discussion of RurAL CAP's regional corporation system as a form of governmental bodies. Mr. Shively stated that he felt the State should work very closely with the regional corporation model if they decide to set up regional governments for rural Alaskans.

Byron Mallott and Atty. Gen. John Havelock discussed the administration's bill to create regional service districts in rural Alaska as a means of providing regional government.

The Governor introduced a bill embodying this concept into the Legislature during the last

session, but the bill was not passed.

A major problem in considering this bill was the amount of funding needed by the State to set up these regional service districts. It has been estimated that it would cost the State at least \$800,000 to set up such a system.

Also discussed at the conference was the Governor's proposal to change the Local Affairs Agency to a cabinet level department. There was general support of this concept by those members present at the meeting.

A great deal of discussion evolved as to how the new department would meet the very definite needs of urban and rural Alaska.

SEACAP Board Backs 'Alaska Plan'

The Southeastern Alaska Community Action board of directors voted unanimously to approve the proposed agreement between labor unions, contractors and Natives which would increase the number of minority workers in the construction trades.

One of the provisions of the seven-year "Alaska Plan" is to incorporate skilled Natives into unions through an equivalency board. The board would be composed of four persons, one for contractors and two for minority groups.

They would meet at 30-day intervals to classify minority workers as apprentices, trainees or journeymen.

Gordon Jackson, Executive Director of SEACAP in Juneau, stated that one of the first priorities of the agency has been the integration of the poor and disadvantaged into the Alaska labor force.

The community action agency represents seventeen communities in southeastern Alaska.

RurAL CAP to Aid Villages—

Assist on Alcohol Problems

A new program for RurAL CAP has been initiated which will focus on providing assistance, training and intervention strategies to assist Native villages in defining and attempting to solve their alcoholism problems through education, and to gather statistical data on which to base future, planned, programmed efforts.

The regional director, with approval of the regional board, will hire an alcoholism counselor who will be given extensive training.

This person will do individual and family counseling and make referrals to the appropriate agencies when monetary or professional service needs exist, will be responsible for coordinating the community's activities as they relate to alcoholism and will act as a liaison between the helping agencies.

Programs are planned in Copper Center, Dillingham, Fort Yukon, Juneau, Kodiak, Kotzebue and Unalaska. RurAL CAP will provide the necessary financial monitoring and budget review of the programs.

The training course, conducted by the University of Alaska

at the Anchorage Community College, started June 5 and will finish June 25.

A follow-up session is planned for November or December, at which time the counselors will be more aware of the kind of help needed from the actual problems encountered and will implement their programs accordingly.

The agenda included the following topics as related to alcoholism: Concepts and attitudes, psychology, medical problems, the judicial system, national and international aspects, cultural aspects with emphasis on Alaska Native drinking patterns, problems in rural Alaska, overview of community treatment programs, identification and motivation, treatment process including outpatient services, home counseling and innovative treatment methods.

Interviewing with alcoholics, demonstration groups, field trips and movies were part of the program. Supportive services, measurement evaluation, program analysis, individual and group counseling and community organization were also included.

Agencies contributing to the agenda were: Department of Health and Welfare, Alaska Native Medical Center, Anchorage Borough Health Department, Alaska Psychiatric Institute, Seaward Skill Center, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Public Welfare, Anchorage; Bureau of Indian Affairs, Native Welcome Center, Alano Club, University of California Extension, Santa Cruz, California; Greater Anchorage Area CAA, Anchorage Alcohol Drug Research Center, Phoenix Club, COMPAS and the Salvation Army.

Speakers included Judge George Crawford, Municipal Court, Los Angeles, California and Judge Nora Guinn from Bethel.

Staff members from the University of Alaska; Anchorage Community College and RurAL CAP also addressed the group.

Those attending the training session were: Margaret Schultz from Kotzebue; Titus Peter, Fort Yukon; Charles DeWitt, Copper Center; Nina Andre, Dillingham; Ted Velanis, Kodiak; Emil Berikoff, Unalaska and Evelyn Meyers from Juneau.

Native American Crafts—

Increase Financial Return from Arts and Crafts

A grant that will attempt to increase the financial return native Americans receive for their arts, crafts and other products was announced today by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Frank Carlucci, Director of the OEO, said the two-year grant for \$550,000 will go to the Native American Merchandising Enterprise, Inc., of Denver, Colorado.

Studies have shown that native Americans, many of whom exist below the poverty line, receive a minimum return for their arts, crafts and other products.

This grant, which is a pilot project, will attempt to do the following:

—Upgrade the present income

of native Americans through fairer prices and new markets for their products.

—Encourage and develop the scope of native American arts, crafts and products.

—Preserve and expand various art forms which may become extinct.

—Provide for the development of skills which may be transferred to other occupational areas.

At least one-third of the board members of the Native American Merchandising Enterprise, Inc., have incomes below the poverty level.

The board consists of 27 members representing all native Americans including Alaskans. One third of the board mem-

bers are native American craftsmen.

Training and technical assistance will be provided by: Harbridge House of Boston, Massachusetts; Julius Greenwald, a consultant in the field of arts and crafts; the seven Indian com-

munity action projects located in universities or private, non-profit corporations and others.

Marketing and sales procedures will be set up and office and warehouse space will be procured in Denver and New York City.

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