

two day meet —

CAP endorses Subsistence Resource Council

In a marathon meeting that spanned two full days and covered a wide variety of topics, the Board of Directors of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP) firmly established subsistence as its number one priority during the coming legislative session. RurAL CAP, a non-profit poverty agency dedicated to the elimination of

the "causes and conditions" of poverty in rural Alaska, endorsed the many recommendations of the Citizen's Participation Conference on legislative concerns held last weekend in Anchorage, directing their staff to pay particular attention to the legislative recommendations presented by the Subsistence Resource Council.

These recommendations include a variety of amendments to Title XVI, the State's Fish and Game statutes. Among other things, the Council calls for greater autonomy for local Fish and Game Advisory Committees, formal participation of village people in management decisions and a limit on aircraft hunting which would "restrict the use of aircraft in the pursuit of game to the Game Management Unit in which it (the airplane) is registered."

The Subsistence Resource Council presentation at the Conference was clearly attended with the most enthusiasm by other rural participants. Consisting of village residents, chosen by the villages to represent their interests and concerns, the Council was formed last month in Bethel. At that meeting Frank Woods of New Stuyahok was elected "Chief" of the ad hoc group, and RurAL CAP agreed to provide as much staff and other support as was possible.

At last week's meeting, after hearing from Chief Woods, RurAL CAP unanimously recognized the Council as its "permanent advisor on resource and subsistence issues," directed staff to provide "all possible"

technical and financial support," and to place a representative of the Council on the RurAL CAP Board.

"We accept this challenge with real satisfaction," stated CAP Director Phil Smith. "Now that the Council exists and can provide the leadership, we're more than happy to serve in a back-up role, especially with the State Legislature."

In other action, the Board took note of the effects of the so-called "Governor's Efficiency Review" on rural Alaska, and called on Governor Hammond to immediately commence an inquiry into the closure of some of the State's field offices in the bush.

Also, the Board called on the State Office of Alcoholism to streamline its operations and reduce "attendant paperwork" so that smaller communities might be encouraged to apply for grant funds. Noting that alcohol-related curricula in the schools has a positive impact, the Legislature was requested to create a special program to be funded by an appropriation of ½ of 1% of the present Public School Foundation Progra.