

NSB selects mayor

By Thomas Richards, Jr.

BARROW (July 15) - The North Slope Borough Assembly declared the Office of Mayor vacant and appointed Assembly Chairman Jacob Adams to fill that vacancy, in resolutions adopted Tuesday evening. Adams resigned his assembly seat immediately upon that action to accept the mayorship.

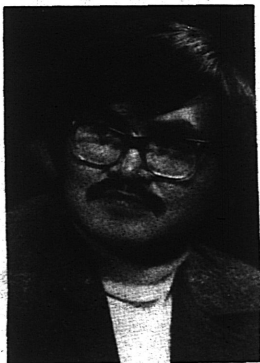
Adams is Chairman of the Board of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, as well as holding the staff position of lands chief for the regional corporation. He is also Chairman of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. While resigning his seat on the Borough Assembly, Adams did not indicate whether he would retain any or all of his ASRC and AEWC responsibilities upon assuming the office of Mayor.

The assembly also adopted a resolution calling for a special election for mayor. That office, along with two assembly seats and a range of bonding proposals, will appear on the ballot for the borough election scheduled for Tuesday, October 7.

The appointment of Adams came in a unanimous action of the assembly after the members discussed the vacancy and appointment during an executive session lasting about one-half hour.

"I am surprised, and I am grateful for your vote of confidence," Adams told the assembly members after the vote on the appointment. Earlier Tuesday, Acting Mayor Lloyd Ahvakana had indicated to the Tundra Times that he was interested in remaining Acting Mayor until the October elections. If the assembly choose another acting mayor, Ahvakana suggested, he may entertain the idea of taking extended leave from administrative duties to campaign for the Mayor's post. Ahvakana said he would probably resign as Borough Clerk and chief administrative officer if he was not retained as Acting Mayor.

Ahvakana had expressed hope that he would be able to continue the program direction established by late



JACOB ADAMS

Mayor Eben Hopson until the October election. One member of the assembly, however, told the Tundra Times Monday that the assembly would be inclined to declare the position vacant and make an appointment from among elected assembly members. "There are several who would be well qualified for the position," the member said.

North Slope Borough voters may have up to eight candidates from which to elect a mayor in October, according to interest expressed by potential candidates. Adams and Ahvakana are likely candidates,

as is Billy Neakok of Barrow. Others suggested include Arnold Brower, Sr., Eugene Brower, Maggie Ahmaogak, and Nate Olemaun, all of Barrow.

Whichever candidate is elected in October will serve only for one year, the remaining period of Hopson's term, and will face another election in October of 1981.

Meanwhile, the Borough Assembly did not act Tuesday to fill the vacancy created by Adam's appointment. That action will be taken up at the next assembly meeting in August.