

Upper Yukon Development Corp. Meets

The Upper Yukon Development Corporation regional board met in Fort Yukon on June 17-18, with all but one of the twelve villages in the region represented.

Alaska Legal Services lawyer Len Aspern, discussed with board members the feasibility

of securing a tract of land that would be used only for reindeer, and also the possibility of having "custom adoptions" recognized legally.

Throughout the rural areas, people adopt children by merely having the youngsters live with their families, and these are

termed "custom adoptions."

A resolution was passed that the Social Security Administration and other government agencies be requested to initiate regulations to recognize Native "custom adoptions", so that benefits will be available to the children who have not been legally adop-

ted but who are recognized as adopted by other people in the village where they live.

In other business, a resolution was passed to request that the State Sanitation Department refrain from closing the cannery at Rampart as it is a vital part of the economy of the area.

Officials from the Health, Education and Welfare Department in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Seattle were in attendance at the meeting and discussed Social Security services.

Don Young, Representative for the 16th District, gave a legislative report and participated in a question and answer session.

Among other items discussed was establishing a sawmill to provide lumber for eleven houses which will be built in Venetie and the need for equipment at Chalkyitsik.

It was decided to hold the next board meeting in Fort Yukon in September, with a firm date to be set later.