

## **State Energy Chief—**

# **Bush Power in '76**

"Our goal is five years from January, 1976 to leave the rural energy problem completely behind us," according to William McConkey, director of the Alaska Energy Office.

McConkey made his remarks before the Tanana Chiefs Conference Annual Convention March 20. The convention was held at the Traveler's Inn in Fairbanks.

McConkey said his office, under the Hammond administration, has begun to deal with all facets of energy development, usage, conservation and transportation.

The energy office is researching the development of new sources of energy and implementing a plan to conserve fuel among state agencies. They also plan a media campaign to encourage the public to save energy.

Joan Ray, assistant to McConkey, said one of the most important functions of the Alaska Energy Office will be to monitor and act upon energy needs of the people throughout the state. Ray is in the process of gathering

information on fuel usage and storage in the bush which will help the office anticipate the future needs of villages.

McConkey said his offices will help villages with a wide variety of energy-related problems. As an example, he said if the AEO had been functioning as it is now, it could have helped the people of Selawik when their electric generator broke down last winter.

The AEO could also help a village that is having a problem with fuel delivery, or one that wants to acquire a bulk storage facility.

One project already under way is an effort to get money from the federal government to insulate or re-insulate homes in the bush. McConkey said adequate insulation can save the consumer a substantial amount in heating cost.

McConkey said any comments or questions from individuals or organizations about energy problems should be addressed to his office:

Alaska Energy Office  
MacKay Building  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501.