

# Eugene!

Mayor Eugene Brower was the victor in the first closely contested mayoral election in the North Slope Borough's history this fall.

Challenges to his victory left some worrying about bitter feelings between the candidates and, of course, the possibility of political reprisals. Brower says he has no hard feelings. "The election is over. It is time to get on with business. I don't think anyone will let bitterness get in the way. We all know we have to work together."

The new mayor is concerned over the low employment situation in the North Slope villages. Getting the North Slope Borough Capital Improvement Program, which offers steady construction employment, under way is a top priority of the new administration.

"We have got to get things moving in the villages," the mayor says. "The employment has been too low. The C.I.P. projects should be providing a constant, high-level employment picture. Getting things going in the villages and keeping them going is what we're after."

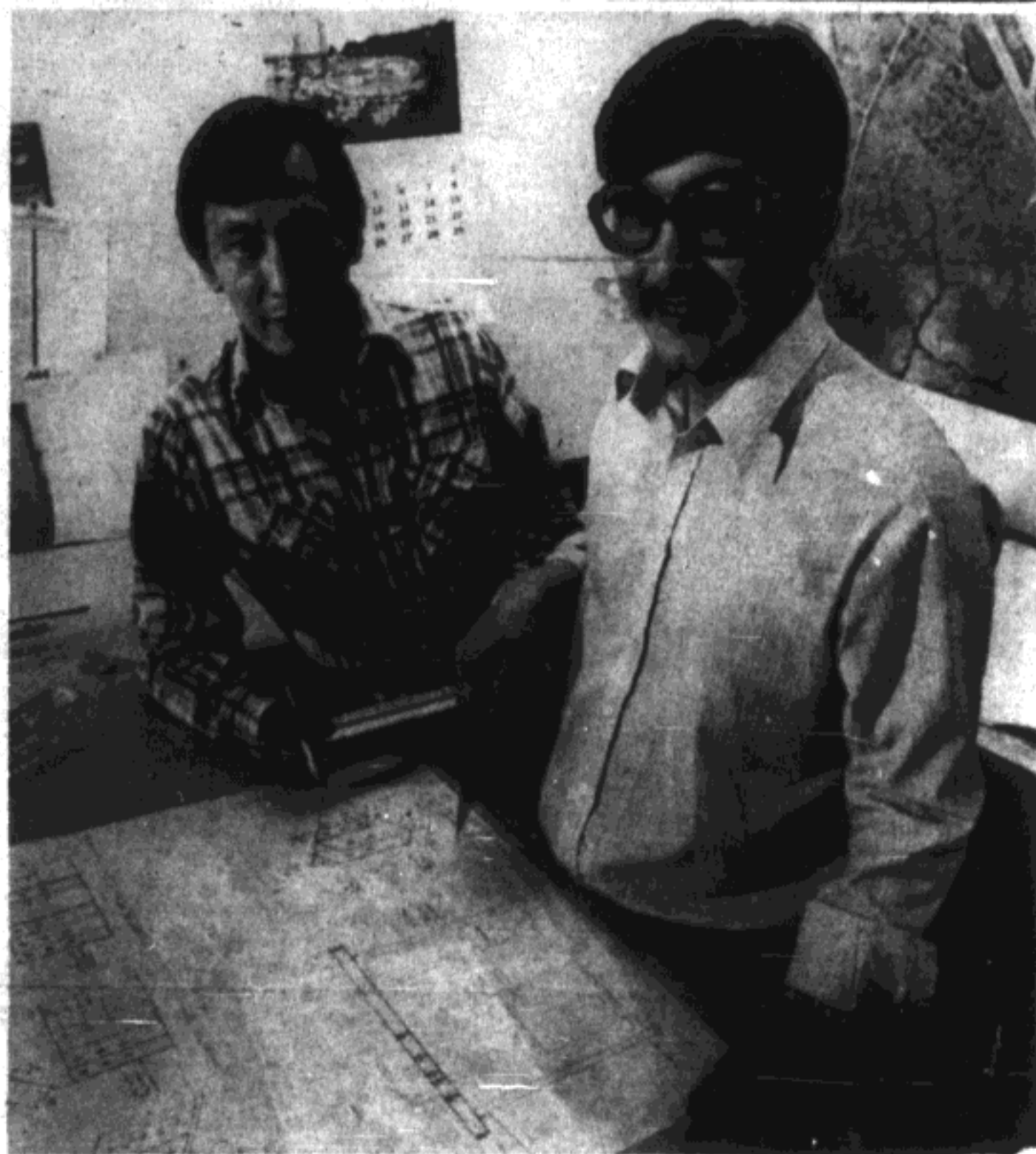
During the campaign Brower cited two other primary concerns — public safety and education. One of the crying needs of many villages is a fire house and a health facil-

ity. In the new year a house burned to the ground in Nuiqsut where witnesses claim it could have been easily saved with even the most basic fire-fighting equipment.

Mayor Brower is pushing ahead with plans to provide village fire and health facilities. Previous plans have called for a combined facility but in the interest of quick construction separate buildings are now being considered.

In education, Mayor Brower's goals are clear. "We are not getting enough students into colleges. They need to be prepared to compete on a national level in testing and to have the skills necessary to make it not only in college but also in the technical trades," says Brower. "I plan to work closely with the School District Administration school board to ensure that we improve the system toward these goals."

Brower is also serving as the chairman of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC). Although occupying the two key roles is sometimes hectic Brower claims the two positions complement each other. "Whaling is so much a part of life on the North Slope that the interests of the whaling captains are the interests of the people. In the Borough we work to protect our resources through the



**Eugene!** Winner of the first hotly contested mayor's race in North Slope Borough history — Mayor Eugene Brower.

E.P.O. (Environmental Protection Office) and we often combine efforts with the A.E.W.C."

In this spirit, the mayor heralds the upcoming Confer-

ence on the Biology of the Bowhead Whale in Anchorage as of major importance to all the people of the whaling communities. "The conference

shows our concern for the bowhead as a species," says the Mayor. "It is our life and our garden and we want to protect and preserve it as much as anyone else."