

Skyrocketing in Bush— **High Fuel Costs**

In the process of preparing a grant to the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity, RurAL CAP has become aware of some shocking prices for fuel in many villages.

According to Phil Smith, Deputy Director of RurAL CAP, prices for home heating fuels are rising at an alarming rate.

"In one village alone, we have received invoices for the Head Start program which indicate a 35% rise in cost between March 15 and April 1," stated Smith.

"This may be legal; but the effects on low-income people are devastating. It is safe to assume that many people in rural Alaska are paying between 30 to 40% of their total income for heating fuel. This doesn't leave much left over for home improvements or other things," he continued.

Although many of these problems were in existence prior to the national "Energy Crisis", RurAL CAP feels this is a good opportunity to focus some positive state and federal attention on the matter. RurAL CAP regional directors will be meeting with representatives of the Federal Energy Office, the

Governor's Office, and the Division of State Economic Opportunity in an attempt to share information and to come to grips with the problem.

Villages and individuals with information on local price increases and supplies are urged to contact their regional development corporation staff or the RurAL CAP office in Anchorage.