

Groups Form Ad Hoc Committee To Help Solve Rural Problems

Seven agencies and organizations have formed an ad hoc group to draft legislative solutions to problems of rural Alaskans.

Video tape or film will be used to carry initial proposals to villagers in Native languages as well as in English. Tapes of villagers' response will be made to assure that the final draft proposals accurately reflect village opinion.

The ad hoc group calls itself the Rural Alaska Development Group. It is being advised by Don Snowden, who has pioneered the use of these techniques to encourage direct democratic parti-

cipation of Native groups in Canada.

More than 150 specialists with particular experience in rural Alaska have been requested to make suggestions for the development of rural Alaska in the areas of health, education, law, resources, economic development, transportation, communications and public utilities.

A policy committee will correlate and edit these expert views for presentation to the villages. Village reaction will guide the drafting of the final proposals which will be submitted to the legislature.

This effort is designed to sup-

plement studies being made by the Brookings Institution and the Stanford Research Institute.

The sponsoring agencies are the Rural Alaska Community Action Agency Program (Rural-ALCAP); Greater Anchorage Area Community Action Agency (GAACAA); Alaska Federation of Natives; Alaska Training and Planning Center; Community Enterprise Development Corporation; Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.; and Alaska Legal Services Corporation. The Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research at the University of Alaska is a contributing participant.

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Peter Markham Scott is head of the World Wildlife Fund, internationally known naturalist, ornithologist, author, lecturer, and one of the most famous conservationists in the world.

He is also one of BP's ecological advisors in Alaska.

We brought him from England to look over our North Slope operations. To see if we were doing the right things to preserve the natural conditions of the land.

You see, to BP and to Alaska it is of great importance to make these operations a success. And it's just as important not to make the land into a wasteland.

So we took Mr. Scott on a detailed inspection of the North Slope. From Point Barrow to Prudhoe Bay.

He praised our conservation efforts in many areas. And told us how to improve them in others.

When he left, he said, "I feel that BP has a very genuine desire to do the best it possibly can to get the oil out with the minimum of damage to the environment."



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