

# AFN Economic Development Department Office Busy



**EDA OFFICE PERSONNEL**—Tom Echols, left, is the project director on the Economic Development Administration in conjunction with the AFN headquarters. Standing over Echols shoulder is Mary Holland, secretary of the EDA office.

## Programs Throughout Northwestern and Southwestern Areas

The Economic Development Department of the AFN is involved in and sponsoring many activities throughout the Northwestern and Southwestern regions of Alaska.

The common aim and effort of the EDA group is to seek ways to improve the economic conditions now existing in the depressed and disadvantaged communities of these regions.

A principal aim of the AFN in the Economic Development area is to seek ways and means so that job development enterprises are encouraged and developed.

Extensive and detailed plans and liaison is required with the State and Federal Governments and with private business groups to keep the "ball rolling."

The Northwest and Southwest regional boards establish economic project priorities through board decision and direction.

The respective directors who are hired by the regional boards in conjunction with the AFN coordinator are expected to follow through with the planning and development of board priorities.

Among the existing plans for project priorities, this grant period encompass encouraging and establishing timber and lumber operations in the Kuskokwim, developing coal reserves for marketing by ANICA stores in the

Northwest, the construction of a community complex in Emmonak consisting of rooms, library, meeting hall and washeteria.

Probably one of the most difficult but needed projects has begun on or about June 15th. This project consists of receiving surplus buildings from the Cape Lisbourne Military Site, moving the buildings by barge to the communities of Ambler, Selawick, Kiana, Noatak, and Noorvik.

The Corps of Engineers has released these buildings upon vacancy by the military to the Northwest Economic Planning and Development District for salvage. The salvaged buildings, will be used by the above community for badly needed community facilities.

The Alaska State Rural Development Agency has provided funds to the named communities to provide for payrolls in the demolishing, packaging and subsequent construction of the buildings.

Community personnel will be working under the sponsorship of the contractor, Manson, Osberg, Ghemm Co. at the Cape Lisbourne Site in demolishing and packaging the buildings.

It is expected that the work will be accomplished by the end of August.