

# Barrow Eyes Its Drunkards

Former state legislator John Nusunginya of Barrow, told Tundra Times today that the people of Barrow may be getting ready to deal with alcoholism in the big Eskimo village at the Top o' the World.

He said the village had a general meeting last Friday but that he had to leave before any vote might have been taken. He said, however, that the people at Barrow were viewing the liquor problem from a new angle.

Nusunginya said there seems to be a drift toward establishing liquor dispensing places in the village.

"The way it is now," Nusunginya commented, "It is too hard to control the people who drink too much."

"If the liquor was handled by

Barrow," he continued, "the money would be coming in to the city—even though it's against my religion. Let us, hopefully and seriously, think of settling the problem—the big problem we're faced with now."

He said that if the city had the income from the liquor sales, Barrow would be much cleaner "and our city firehall would be kept up." He said the firehall has gone without maintenance or repair because the city coffers were empty of money.

Nusunginya noted that under the present system of getting liquor by airfreight from Fairbanks, the people tend to drink too much at the same time of the liquor arrival. He said this

could be due to the sudden arrival of shipment after going without for a time.

He pointed out that if the City of Barrow established liquor dispensing centers, the people would have a continuous supply and knowing that it is readily available would tend to stabilize drinking and might even lower the average.

"The way it is now," Nusunginya said, "they get the liquor all at once and they want to drink it—three or four bottles all at once. This is bad. And, too, some individuals in Fairbanks are getting rich out of Barrow money which could be used in Barrow."