

State considering Tazlina Council as A.V.E.

In the month of June, 1986, the Tazlina Village Council submitted a petition for recognition as an Appropriate Village Entity to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

This was done because Section 14(c)(3) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) provides that, after village corporations receive land conveyances from the federal government, they must turn over a certain amount of land for community use and expansion to the municipal corporation (city) established in the village. If there is no city, the land must be conveyed to the State of Alaska. The State then holds the land in trust for any future city that may be established to use.

As originally written, Section 14(c)(3) provided that **at least** 1,280 acres of land had to be conveyed for municipal purposes. This requirement was amended to provide that any

amount **up to** 1,280 acres could be conveyed, if the village corporation and the state, in trust, agree in writing to the amount.

Some of the residents of Tazlina and the surrounding area did not feel that Tazlina Village Council should be designated as the A.V.E., so notice was given by the Department of Community and Regional Affairs that a public meeting would be convened on November 6, 1986, at 4 P.M. in the Copper Center School.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct an informal hearing regarding the suitability of the Tazlina Village Council to be recognized as the Appropriate Village Entity, and to provide resolutions of advice and direction regarding municipal trust land that would reflect the views of the bonafide residents of Tazlina.

The meeting was well attended, and views were presented on a whole series of issues. However, in light of

the issues which surfaced, there seemed to be so much confusion regarding the function and authority of an A.V.E. that much of the testimony was irrelevant to the question for

which the meeting was called.

The final determination from Department of Community and Regional Affairs has not yet been made.