

# RurAL CAP receives document

RurAL CAP has recently received a supply of the "Poor People's Platform—a call for Community Action in the Spirit of '76." The document, which recommends basic approaches to the problems of poverty in America, was developed by the National Community Action Agency Director's Association in conjunction with several other groups.

"We saw a real need for this project," stated RurAL CAP Director Phil Smith (who served on the drafting committee). "In this presidential election year, we realized that a number of pressures would be put on the Democrats and Republicans to adopt platform planks responsive to special interests.

In order to make sure that the critical needs of the poor were not overlooked, we undertook to write our own platform."

In its final form, the 21-page document outlines major areas of specific concern to the nation's poor. Such topics as health, manpower, energy, food and

nutrition, aging, rights of minorities, and others are outlined with specific recommendations for action by the national administration.

"I'm particularly pleased with the section on civil rights," said Smith. "For the first time, perhaps, a national effort has affirmed the basic right of Americans to be different to retain their cultural integrity, and to change their culture only when they feel it's in their own best interest.

Certainly, this is appropriate to Alaska where there are so many pressures on village people to conform to the majority culture."

An effort is currently underway in Washington to have the platform's major positions incorporated into the Democratic Platform for 1976. A similar attempt will be undertaken with the Republican Platform Committee.

Copies are limited but will be available from RurAL CAP in the near future. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy should contact RurAL CAP.