

Byron Mallott to Head Community Enterprise Development Corp.

The Community Enterprise Development Corp., governing body for the new \$897,000 program intended to develop 10 economically sound cooperatives in rural parts of Alaska, met for the first time Wednesday and elected 25-year-old Byron Mallott of Yakutat as its president.

Mallott heads a 12-man board responsible for policy-making and for choosing the enterprises to be funded under the project. The project has been funded for 15 months by an \$897,000 grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity to Rural Alaska Community Action Program.

The action agency is delegate agency for the project until December, at which time the separate corporation and board becomes independent.

The board is made up of representatives of the state's anti-poverty regional advisory boards, development corporations and rural cooperatives already established. Enterprises funded under the program automatically will be entitled to a representative on the board.

Wednesday the board approved bylaws for the new corporation and adopted general guidelines for selection of the enterprises to be funded.

The officers they elected, in addition to Mallott, are: Frank Ferguson, Kotzebue Sound Area Fishery Cooperative, vice president; Robert Mott, Upper Yukon Valley Corp., treasurer; Joe Darling, Kodiak Area Community Development Corp., corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Diane Carpenter, Alaska Village Electrification Cooperative, recording secretary.

The new president, who is an independent fisherman by trade and a vice president in

both the Alaska Federation of Natives and the Alaska Native Brotherhood, said he believed the new program was "probably one of the most significant ever developed for the economic development of rural Alaska."

"I feel that in many ways the program must be sensitively handled because of its close relationship with private enterprise," Mallott said. "What we want to do is complement private enterprise, as well as provide opportunities not otherwise available to rural and poor Alaskans."

The board adopted general guidelines indicating cooperatives selected for funding must have a membership composed principally of persons whose previous incomes were below the poverty level and must be able to demonstrate the cooperative's potential for significant impact on the economic position of its membership and on the geographical area it serves.

Harold Wolff, a consultant in manpower and economic development who last month was hired by the board of directors for RurALCAP as director of the project, said applications would also be judged according to the number of persons the enterprise would affect and the value it would have in developing strategic resources already in the area.

The corporation will control a loan fund of \$150,000 to provide working capital for the cooperatives and a grant fund of \$150,000 to provide for basic equipment costs. Another \$85,000 has been provided for 10 village cooperative developers, who will be selected by their enterprises.

Another \$265,000 supports a central staff of seven specialists and three clerical persons to pro-

vide on-going technical assistance to the operating cooperatives. All the figures are based on a twelve-month period.

The central staff, not yet all hired, is expected to make recommendations to the board on selection of initial pilot programs by October 15.

Wolff said the first programs probably will not exceed four and will include the two active fishing cooperatives, the Kotzebue Sound Area Fishery Cooperative and the Kuskokwim

(Continued on page 4)

Mallott . . .

(continued from Page 2)

Fishermen's Cooperative, Inc.

Mallott said the program would demand close contact with the areas being served and the board would be under a heavy schedule between now and Christmas to get the program off the ground.

Mallott graduated from high school in Southeast Alaska and completed a major in political science at Western Washington State College.

He served for a year and a half as a local government specialist for both Gov. William Egan and Gov. Walter Hickel. He is now a candidate for the State House of Representatives.