

# Canada Eskimo Cooperatives Meet at Povungnituk, P.Q.

(SPECIAL)—Representatives from 22 far-flung Canadian Eskimo cooperatives met recently in Povungnituk, P.Q. to exchange reports and trade ideas on the operations and future of the Co-ops they represent.

This meeting, unlike the first such gathering in Frobisher Bay three years ago, included representatives of Indian and Metis (mixed parentage) communities who have since become interested in the Co-operative development.

The first conference, also organized by the Industrial Division of the Department of Northern Affairs, brought members of 16 fledgling co-ops together to exchange ideas and map future plans. In many cases it was the first time that representatives of widely separated Eskimo groups had ever met.

Arthur Laing, Northern Affairs Minister, said it was "most gratifying" to note the progress the Co-ops had made since the last conference. "With total sales of the Arc-

tic producer co-operatives now touching the second million dollars, our earlier confidence in these groups is well justified," he said.

"The first conference opened the way to widespread change in the relationship of Arctic Co-operatives and the Co-op movement of Canada. Arctic groups are now playing an increasing role in a program of the Co-operative Union of Canada called "Co-operatives Everywhere."

Le Conseil de la Co-operation du Quebec, also represented at the meeting, has concentrated its attention on assistance to communities in Arctic Quebec.

A listing of the existing Co-ops shows they are engaged in such projects as: graphic art, carvings, handicrafts, fur buying, tourist operations, fur marketing, salmon, trout, and char fisheries, freighting and logging, fur garment production, home building for members, boat building, seal fishery, saw mill operation and lumbering and retail store operations.