

OEO DIRECTOR VISITS ALASKA UNANNOUNCED

Rumsfeld Visits Nome, Tanana and Kotzebue, Unalakleet, Emmonak

Donald Rumsfeld, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity and Special Assistant to President Nixon, made an unannounced visit to Alaska last week.

Bryon Mallott, Executive Director of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, who accompanied Rumsfeld, disclosed today that the OEO Director visited Fairbanks, Tanana, Kotzebue, Nome, Unalakleet and Emmonak.

The OEO Director's brief two day visit which began in Fairbanks Sunday evening and ended in Anchorage where Rumsfeld stopped only to change planes Tuesday allowed Rumsfeld the opportunity to gain a firsthand view of poverty conditions in rural Alaska, according to Mallott.

"It is my understanding,"

said Mallott, "that Mr. Rumsfeld has wanted for some time to visit Alaska where OEO has several major programs. Having accompanied President Nixon to the Western Whitehouse in San Clemente, California, Mr. Rumsfeld took the opportunity to come to Alaska.

"A brief visit was all the Director's schedule would allow at this time and I do hope that he returns, although I feel that Mr. Rumsfeld has gained valuable insight into the problems we face up here."

Accompanying Rumsfeld, besides Mallott, were two top OEO officials; Dick Chaney of Rumsfeld's personal staff and Thomas H. Mercer, Director of the OEO's Northwest Regional Office in Seattle, as well as Ernest Brannon of the Alaska OEO Office.