

# RurAL CAP GIVES BOSS A FINE BANQUET

## National Director Eats, Visits Outlying Areas

Alvin J. Arnett, National Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, was honored by a capacity audience at a banquet Friday, April 19, hosted by the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc., at the Royal Inn in Anchorage.

Welcoming Arnett to Alaska were Mike Harper, Executive Director of RurAL CAP, and Greater Anchorage Area Borough Mayor Jack Roderick.

In his welcoming remarks, Mayor Roderick voiced the tremendous need for Community Action agencies, a place where people in need can go and receive help. The Mayor presented Arnett a large photograph of the Lake Clark pass area on behalf of the community.

Winding up a two-day visit to Alaska, his first time in the State, Arnett told of how impressed he was by the immensity of Alaska, the enormous scenic beauty, and his recognition of the enormity of the problems of communication and transportation in rural Alaska as well as the host of other problems.

Visiting Angoon in Southeastern and Nondalton in Bristol Bay, plus Juneau and Anchorage, Arnett had an opportunity to view for himself, Alaskan problems. He likened the problems of rural Alaska in part to the problems of Appalachia.

Arnett has his roots in a rural county of Kentucky — a part of the depressed Appalachia region — and where he worked in the anti-poverty program before going to Washington, D.C.

The OEO Director told of the problems in getting the \$375

million dollar funding package to finance a continuation of the anti-poverty programs through Congress by July.

He was positive in his position that the funding, in some form of order, would be passed. Arnett based his position on the support of the communities now involved in OEO funded projects, the support of 47 governors, including the strong support of Gov. William Egan.

A strong list of congressmen are working hard to get passage of the package in some form, including Alaska's delegation, Arnett said.

Sen. Mike Gravel and Mrs. Gravel were in attendance for part of the evening.

Arnett was accompanied on his Alaska visit by Region X OEO Director John Finley and Chuck Hodges, Alaska Field Representative for the Region X office, both from Seattle.

Rural and urban problems cannot be met by the same set of answers, stressed Arnett. He emphasized the importance of recognizing the differences within the sphere of rural problems and within the sphere of urban problems, and answering each set of problems independently.

Of the hundreds of OEO grantees, he told the Alaska group, each one is different — maybe having some of the same components — but yet individual in how each meets local needs.