



RurAl-CAP



ACTION REPORTS

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NATIONAL DIRECTOR ARNETT OF OEO FIRED

Roger Mooney Visits St. Paul.

Director of Early Childhood, Roger Mooney, visited the village of St. Paul located in the Aleutian region to make plans for the new Head Start Program to begin there in September.

The Head Start Director met with Michael Zacharof, a member of the Village Council, on Sunday, the 18th of July, along with Agafon Krukoff, the Village Council President, Alex Melivodov, Chairman of the School Board, and Ted Emanoff, a representative of the RurAl CAP Development Corporation, The Aleutian Planning Commission, and some other people from the village.

As the new Head Start Center will begin operation in September, it was necessary, at that time, to elect a Policy Committee and this was done at a meeting where 18 parents of children who will participate in the program were present.

The officers elected were: Alvin Potter, Chairperson, Nina Philemonoff, Vice-Chairperson, Anna Lestenkof, Secretary/Treasurer, and the body of the Committee included: Michael Zacharof, Zenaida Kushin, Nadezda Tetoff, Vassa Oustingoff, August Buterin, and the physician of the village, Dr. Michael Geitz.

Mooney stated that, "Dr. Geitz was extremely cooperative and should be a real asset to the health component of the Head Start Program."

Films and slides were shown to the Policy Council and the parents of the children to help make them familiar with the purposes and procedures of Head Start. The Teacher-Director for the program was then chosen by the Policy Committee. The person chosen was Karlene Barron.

On Wednesday, the children were examined by Dr. Scott Giebank, a physician from Elmendorf Air Force Base, and Celia Foley, a speech and hearing therapist from the Special Services Delivery Project and their report states that there are very few health problems among the children.

Dr. Geibank's remarks were that, "These are the healthiest children I have ever seen." Celia Foley did developmental assessments on all of the children.

Teachers and parents of the children were shown how to fill out the pre-school health program control sheet and the Public Health Nurse brought all of the immunizations for the Head Start children up-to-date.

Mooney reports that St. Paul is in excellent shape to have a model Head Start Program, and further states, "The residents are extremely cooperative and enthusiastic about the new program."

Dr. Michael Geitz assured the teacher-director that he would be willing to do any kind of parent education or examination of the children that was requested.

Before the Head Start people left the village, the parents and teacher-director were briefed on aide activities in the classroom, setting up the center, ordering materials and supplies, and writing theme-based lesson plans.



PICTURED ABOVE: Mr. Alvin J. Arnett, National Director of OEO and Mr. Michael C. Harper (left) Executive Director of RurAl CAP at a banquet held in Mr. Arnett's honor in April.

Harassment Precedes Firing of OEO Head Of Nationwide Agency

Alvin J. Arnett, National Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, was fired recently by President Nixon. This action occurred after several weeks of harassment from the White House on grounds that, allegedly, Mr. Arnett had not been carrying-out satisfactorily, the President's mandate to eliminate the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Mike Harper, Executive Director of RurAl CAP, the only Community Action Agency in the State of Alaska, has sent a strong telegram of protest to the congressional delegation urging that Arnett's firing be protested.

Arnett did visit Alaska in April of this year and although limited by a very tight schedule, was able to go to Angoon in Southeast Alaska and Nondalton in the Bristol Bay Region where he heard the concerns and wishes of the various village leaders.

It is very apparent that the decision to fire Arnett was simply a political one as he has proven to poor people, that he

had the sincerity and dedication that few bureaucrats ever exhibit.

Citizens Should Register for Elections

In anticipation of the upcoming primary election (Aug. 27, 1974) and general election (Nov. 5, 1974), it is very important that all eligible citizens register to vote.

The deadline for Alaskans to register to vote in the primary election is Sunday, July 28. It is especially important for rural people to do so since a number of the legislative issues to be introduced and acted upon, will have a direct bearing on the bush economy, educational system, social, and political way of life.

Those offices up for voter determination are: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Senator, and U.S. House of Representatives. There are also 15 State Senate seats, 40 State House seats, and numerous municipal posts up for election this year.

In order to register in person, contact an authorized registrar such as: the local community registrar, the local magistrate and clerk, a statewide candidate, or your Native regional corporation.

You can also register by mail by writing to the Election Supervisor's Office, 211 East 5th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Please note the following information: If you have not registered before within the State of Alaska, you must register in order to vote in the upcoming primary (August 27, 1974) and general (November 5, 1974) elections.

If you have moved or changed your residence address or have changed your name, you must pre-register. Those of you who may register to vote must meet these voter qualifications: (a) Be a citizen of the United States. (b) Be at least 18 years of age or be 18 by the day of the primary or general elections. (c) Have been a resident of the State and Election District for at least 30 days just before the election. (d) Have been registered to vote at least 30 days just before the election.

Once your name is recorded on the voter registration master list by the State Elections Office, you will be forwarded a blue and white voter acknowledgement card. This card indicated the District and Precinct in which you are registered and must vote as recorded with your nearest election office.

ALSC Increases Bush Area Activity

Alaska Legal Services Corporation this month marked a half-year of increased bush activity with the opening of an office in Kiana.

Since January Alaska Legal Services Corporation has moved to increase its service to bush areas through increased village intake and the opening of offices in Dillingham and Kiana.

In June ALSC sponsored a Bush Justice Conference in Minto which led to the recent establishment of a permanent Bush Justice Monitoring group affiliated with Alaska Federation of Natives.

At present ALSC is heavily involved in the drive to secure allotments for all allotment applications throughout the state.

In addition to individual allotment problems ALSC is working on major problems in securing allotments in the Tongass National Forest, Kodiak Bear Refuge, Katmai National Monument and state-patented land near Haines.

ALSC is also involved in a lawsuit against the Alaska State Housing Authority on behalf of 10 villages and 1,440 occupants of ASHA housing. The suit seeks to remedy housing conditions which occupants feel are unsafe and a breach of their contracts with ASHA.

In the economic development area ALSC is assisting the Ketchikan Indian Arts and Crafts Co-op and the Golovin Fish Co-op.

The Hootch suit initiated by ALSC on behalf of village school children to obtain increased rural schooling in the students' home villages is continuing as are negotiations to improve the high school situation in Kivalina.

The Aguchak decision by the State Supreme Court, which was instituted by ALSC now prevents bush debtors from being forced to go to urban centers to defend a small claims case against them.

Legislatively ALSC played a major role in removing provision of the new adoption act which may have proven detrimental to bush residents.

In September ALSC will be meeting with the Bush Justice Monitoring Committee as well as other state agencies to develop proposed legislation to improve the justice system in rural areas.

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