

NATIONAL DIRECTOR ARNETT OF OEO FIRED



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.