

OEO Grants ASCAP \$891,000 For Rural Native Enterprises

"We're gratified that our efforts during the past six months to secure the meaningful economic development capability for the rural Alaskan natives has now been awarded with this grant—the largest ever awarded for such a program," said Larry Brayton,

executive director of the Alaska State Community Action Program, Inc.

The grant in question is the \$891,000 to be used for cooperative enterprise development in the outlying areas.

It was awarded by the Office of Economic Opportunity and announced this week by Sen. Ernest Gruening.

"Some 25,000 Alaska natives will benefit directly from this program which has tremendous potential in influencing other agencies dealing with our natives in Alaska," said Brayton.

"Now is the time for our rural communities to get involved in this program as this will be their program and not just that of other agencies," he added.

Brayton said that the one-year funding of the program will bring about the development of remote villages in Alaska through the cooperative idea.

He said the effects of the program will range from complete reconstruction of homes for hundreds of families to reduced costs for locally produced consumer goods.

The program was drafted late in December by the staff of ASCAP. Initial explorations and feelers were made in Washington, D. C. early in December of

(Continued on Page 5)

OEO Grants ASCAP

(Continued from page 1)

last year by Mrs. Marlene Johnson, president of the board of directors of ASCAP, and Larry Brayton.

The program was presented to the ASCAP board on January 10 at a special meeting where it was amended and reworked and submitted early in February to the OEO.

Brayton had high praise for the assistance of Joe Smith of the OEO. Smith is

resident in Alaska during the current year while working on rural program assignments.

"This will be a cooperative association and will spin off from the control of ASCAP's administration in about eight months," said Brayton.

The program is scheduled to get underway in about three weeks after receiving clearance from all agencies involved.



STUDENT OFFICERS—Before school was over recently, Mt. Edgecumbe high school students near Sitka held an election for student council officers. Elected president was Ronald Itta, Barrow Eskimo; vice president, Vicki Burgess, a Haida Indian from Hydaburg; secretary, Gloria Riley, an Athabascan from Minto; treasurer, Louie John, Athabascan from Circle; member-at-large, Effie Vent, an Athabascan from Huslia. From left to right: Louie John, Effie Vent, Gloria Riley, Ron Itta and Vicki Burgess.