

CAP, PAC Discuss Head Start

The RurAL CAP Board of Directors met with the State Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) in a day-long session on May 15 to discuss Head Start programs in rural Alaska.

The PAC met May 14 with the Vice President, Thomas Pungalik from Noorvik, opening the meeting for the 17-member group.

In conjunction with RurAL CAP staff, they reviewed the Head Start grant application for 1973-1974, new Federal Performance Standards, and a monitoring report from the regional office.

The PAC then prepared recommendations to be submitted to the RurAL CAP Board the following day.

In order to comply with regulations in the Federal Performance Standards regarding the minimum number of children required to maintain a Head Start program, it was necessary to close eight centers throughout the State.

Programs which did not meet these Federal requirements are located in Nulato, Hydaburg, Kwigillingok, Angoon, Napakiak, Pilot Station, Holy Cross and Kivalina.

The monitoring report stressed the desire for quality programs, to include more training for the Field Training Supervisors, and this will be accomplished under a supplemental grant received by RurAL CAP from the Office of Child Development, Health, Education and Welfare, and contracted with the State Training and Technical Assistance Office (STATO) at the Alaska Methodist University.

Also, salary rates for the Field Training Supervisors and Head Start personnel in the villages were to be brought into line with comparable positions in the State.

Accordingly, the State PAC recommended a raise for those



HAWAIIAN TREAT — Children in the Head Start program at Hoonah share a juicy pineapple. Head Start programs in the rural areas of Alaska close in May for the summer months.

employees, using the money acquired by the closing of the eight centers not meeting enrollment criteria.

The RurAL CAP Board voted to accept these and other recommendations as presented by PAC.

The State Board was greatly concerned over losing the Head Start programs and gave direction to the RurAL CAP staff to immediately give all possible assistance to these villages in seeking funding from other sources.

A resolution was passed to request that kindergartens in villages not qualifying for Head Start programs be opened by any agency that could do so, such as the State-Operated Schools, Bureau of Indian Affairs, or the State of Alaska.

This is the first time that the State PAC which has been in existence since 1967, has met with the RurAL CAP Board.

They hold a seat on the Board, and are represented by Victor Alexie from Nulato. In the future, the PAC will meet with the RurAL CAP Board at their quarterly meetings.

Regular business was conducted by the RurAL CAP Board on May 16-17, and members voted to approve the merger of AVCP CAP (Association of Village Council Presidents Community Action Pro-

gram) in Bethel with the Southwest Alaska Native Association, Inc. (SWANA), to form one non-profit corporation, Yupig-tak Bista.

It was felt that the existence of the two corporations in the same region caused unnecessary confusion, and that a new, independent corporation in the Bethel area, speaking on behalf of all the people, would have the latitude to seek funds from several sources, thereby assuring the continued delivery of health and social services and advocacy programs for the residents.