

RurAL CAP holds quarterly board meeting

On May 12 and 13th, the quarterly Board meeting of RurAL CAP was held in Cordova. The Board members dealt with many controversial issues affecting the life of rural Alaskans. Newly seated Board members are Mike Andon, Koyukon Development Corporation; Mary Ann Price from Haines, representing the Head Start Policy Council; and Bob Craig, Mayor, Kodiak Island Borough.

The Head Start Grant was approved by the Board for submission to the Office of Child Development programs is the Otitis Media project. Otitis Media affects the hearing of more than half of the children in 32 Head Start village programs, and is a crucial problem interfering with normal development of these children.

Income guidelines continue to be a major problem with several Head Start programs being shut

down due to over-income families.

Policy affecting the administration of the Winterization Program included reserving \$50,000 from the \$600,000 allocated funding to finish up the Tok area with the remainder of the funds to be used to purchase stoves, stove repair/replacement parts, stack robbers and/or metalbestos chimneys where necessary; and a formal petition to CSA to request a program amendment for the use of energy loan funds to be utilized to loan bulk storage funds.

Staff will be seeking a grant for technical assistance and training to aid non-profit regional corporations to assist them in meeting their management needs. Other action included unanimous Board endorsement of the merger of the Aleutian Planning Commission and the Aleut League.

Guest speakers for the two-day meeting gave presentations on Limited Entry and air transportation. Rich Listowski, who represent the United Fishermen of Alaska, gave a presentation on the limited entry controversy, and the need for it in Alaska. He cited one of the major problems within the fishing industry as being an increasing number of licenses and a decreasing number of fish. He stressed the importance of the passage of the Limited Entry Law this fall in the November election.

Hank Ostrosky, an opponent of limited entry, feels the only way for the fishermen of Alaska

to control this problem is through marketing and banking systems, and that this is the only practical way to limit entry and exclude fishermen from outside Alaska.

After considerable discussion of the limited entry question and presentations of Listowski and Ostrosky, the Board went on record as endorsing the limited entry position taken by the United Fishermen of Alaska.

Representatives from Wien Airlines, the Civil Aeronautics Board, and the Alaska Transportation Commission formed a panel for discussion of the various air transportation problems being experienced in rural Alaska. Walt Parker served as moderator.

One of the major points brought about in the presentation is the fact that the CAB is considering dropping its subsidy to Alaska and Wien Airlines because of the profits they are currently showing. If these subsidies were to be cut that would mean that the quality of air service to rural Alaska would be drastically cut or tariffs increased.

Airline representatives stated they are improving customer relations by the formation of a new Customer Service Department for Wien; new structures in Dillingham, Kodiak and Bethel; and a computer reservation system.

The RurAL CAP Board recommended staff follow-up and keeping abreast of issues regarding air transportation and that all complaints regarding airline service be forwarded to the CAB in Washington, D.C.