

# ***Cooperatives and Credit Unions***

## ***May Be Formed In Alaska Villages***

There is a good possibility that cooperative enterprises and credit unions may be formed in villages of Alaska that would be funded through the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Last week in Anchorage, several federal and state agencies met with Robert Doiland of the Credit Union Na-

tional Association International and Miles Hollister from Sargent Shriver's office of the OEO who heads the community services and consumer information departments in Washington, D.C.

The primary subject was credit unions that might be

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# Cooperatives, Credit Unions...

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aimed principally toward lowest income areas of Alaska's villages. However, the subject of cooperatives was mentioned and it was discussed at length.

Hollister dwelt on this as he had researched the cooperative development in the Canadian north.

"Hopefully, the group thought that some sort of a program to make it possible for the villages to form cooperatives and credit unions could be attempted," said Mike Valentine, OEO coordinator for the Anchorage area.

"I'm almost sure that something will come through," he continued. "We had two of the best qualified people at the meeting, Miles Hollister and Robert Doland.

It is presumed that if the

cooperatives were formed, they would be patterned along the lines of those the Canadian Eskimos established throughout the Canadian Arctic.

Twenty cooperatives are now in existence in that country. The first one was organized in 1959 in Ungava Bay. They are now doing over \$1 million dollars per year volume in business.

## MEETING IN CANADA.

The Canadian cooperatives, along with the Department of Northern Affairs and Resources, are planning to hold a meet at Povungnituk in the Quebec Arctic next month.

There is a possibility that 30 or 40 Eskimo and Indian leaders from Alaska may be invited to such a meeting sometime in the future, perhaps to the one at Povungnituk.

"If they are invited, real sharp people like Peter Carter from Eek would attend the conference," said Valentine.

The delegates would be picked from all over Alaska and they would be the leader types. It is presumed that these people would get pointers from the Canadian people and they might even take a training program that would be applied in the cooperative enterprises should they be established in Alaska.

The meeting in Anchorage was attended by people from Federal Housing Administration, Labor Union, Anchorage Bar Association, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Economic Opportunity, Fairbanks Community Action Group, and Anchorage Community Action Group.

It was held in the Anchorage office of Sen. E.L. (Bob) Bartlett. Bartlett's office said it would help all it can.