

# ALCOHOLISM CENTER FOR FT. YUKONERS

## CEASE FIRE In The War On Poverty

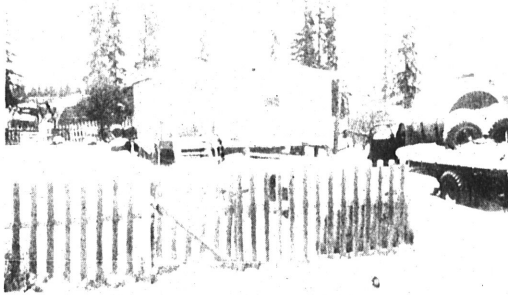
A recent newsletter from the Southeast Alaska Community Action Program published the following article with regard to the dismantling of the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, D.C.

Bob Bradley, Executive Director of SEACAP, stated that the article is an effort to inform Alaskans regarding political actions that affect community action programs.

"For the past year or so, those people involved in economic opportunity or 'Great Society' programs have been anticipating with the re-election of Richard Nixon, the abandonment of these programs. Correspondingly, there has been much speculation as to the means and time by which this action would take place.

"Both the means and time are now at hand. In his 1973-74 budget statement, the President has recommended the dismantling of OEO, with its component segments either defunded, or placed under the authority of other departments. The primary segment, community action programs, would be retained only until December 31, 1973. Afterward, they would have to be picked up and supported by local governments.

"The justification for this action is that OEO has had its chance to reach its objective of equalizing opportunity for low income people, but has failed. There are still poor people in our nation. So a cease fire has been declared in the War on Poverty. In Vietnam, when the United States declared its cease fire, our defense budget did not decrease but instead increased. But in the United States, when the poverty troops are being pulled out, the reciprocal will be true. Perhaps it is because we have not achieved peace with honor.



FORT YUKON ALCOHOLISM CENTER

"Like the Title IV-A cutback which reduced Alaska's federal input from twenty million dollars to about two million dollars, OEO's expenditures in the state will also decrease. Currently operating under OEO in Alaska are RurAL CAP, Community Enterprise Development Corporation (CEDC), Head Start, Alaska Legal Services, Greater Anchorage Area Community Action Agency, as well as other smaller projects.

"Although it is impossible to tell at this point what the level of funding will be, the amount of additional revenue sharing to local government units will probably fall short of that total currently expended through OEO in Alaska. Once again, in spite of the problems created by Alaska's remoteness and vast area, it will be ignored because of its small number of voters."

Also quoted in the newsletter were excerpts from the newspaper in Washington, D.C., THE WASHINGTON POST, as follows: "The man who is to dismantle the Office of Economic Opportunity believes that OEO has undermined authority, challenged the family, promoted the welfare ethic, and eroded democratic safeguards."

"Howard Phillips, 32, acting director of the agency, is cheerfully looking forward to the

task."

Mr. Phillips has also charged OEO as being Marxist oriented, involved in trying to change public opinion, being too active politically, and too heavily staffed by Democrats.

"The destruction of community action agencies comes at a time when an OEO evaluation of the agencies celebrated for their effectiveness in mobilizing local resources to help the poor become self-sufficient."

"The evaluation, based on a study of 591 of the 907 agencies, found them working closely with local governments and making institutional changes of benefit to the poor."

The SEACAP newsletter stated that the President's special revenue sharing bill is slated to provide funds in place of OEO. "In theory, the intent is to provide federal money directly to local governments, to permit them to make decisions as to how the money is to be spent.

"Unfortunately for Alaska, this funding is on a per capita basis, and the bulk of the money will be going into cities which already possess the tax base to provide services. Rural communities throughout Alaska will receive funding on an insignificant level, in most cases, only a few thousand dollars per

## Snow Doesn't Stop Village Workers

Since the alcoholism program under RurAL CAP came into existence in the Fort Yukon area a year ago, the need for a center was recognized and brought before the City Council by Richard Carroll, the Alcoholism Counselor.

Carroll said the Council approved expenses for him to go to Juneau, and he came back with a Rural Development grant of \$8,000 for the building.

Full responsibility of the construction, drawing of blueprints, ordering materials, contacting local freighters, trucks and river barge services, all was given to Carroll. He said that in order to save money, he put all materials needed on bid and by doing so, saved over \$1600.

Materials began to arrive in September and local Native people were hired, some were clients of the program, and others were employed when no other work was available. Carroll commented that sometimes he had ten people, and some "frustrating mornings" there were only two.

Winter set in very early and in October there was six inches of snow although the weather was mild. The bulk of the material arrived by the tenth of the month, with the last barge. There was a shortage of materials and the City

Council donated extra funds and the Fort Yukon Native Association bought tooling material.

The building was finally completed on October 30, and an Open House was held all day.

The interior is of dark panelling, and the office for the two counselors has birch panelling; there is a pool table which was donated by a local citizen; there is a small kitchen where the coffee pot is always on. The building is heated by an oil furnace.

Several hundred books were donated for a lending library and the city has purchased a juke box. A monthly activity schedule is posted which includes counseling groups, movie nights, and teen nights.

Different teen groups have used the Center for their slumber parties and grade school groups visit the Center with their teachers to learn more about the alcoholism program.

The City has contributed the building to the RurAL CAP Alcoholism Program.

community."

Mr. Bradley commented that the foregoing is what appears to be the demise of SEACAP, and other community action programs by December 31, 1973.

He said, "We all know what appears to be and what actually happens are sometimes two different situations."

The remainder of the newsletter, WHOOSH-GEE-EEN (Pulling Together), was devoted to activities of the organization. He mentioned that the regional CAPs were mainly responsible for providing the foundation by which gifted and dedicated individuals brought to conclusion the largest and most significant

single piece of American Native legislation—the 1971 Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act.

Other articles in the newsletter included information on a tax information program, the CAP will sponsor, Head Start, fire protection for the Southeastern villages, alcoholism news, Adult Basic Education, Longevity Bonus, job opportunities, and the fact that applications are being accepted from students who would like to be an intern in Senator Gravel's office in Washington, D.C. during the summer of 1973.

## Phil Smith Appointed . . .

### Ex-Film Maker Becomes

### Deputy Director Of RurAL CAP

One of the most important actions taken by the RurAL CAP Board of Directors at their February 14-15 meeting in Juneau, was to hire Phil Smith as deputy director as of March 1.

Smith joins the RurAL CAP staff after spending two years as director of video tape productions for the Skyriver program.

The new deputy, who is 30, received his B.A. in political science from Golden Gate College in San Francisco. He also attended Notre Dame and the University of Washington in Seattle, and spent three years

in the U. S. Army as a Staff Sergeant stationed in Paris.

Smith has had a great deal of involvement with the production of Land Claims films in the Northwest region. Mike Harper, Executive Director of RurAL CAP, commented that the agency is fortunate to have Smith on the staff at this time as they are planning to produce at least one more Land Claims film.

Born in Montana, Smith has lived in various communities throughout the State of Alaska since a very early age, but lists Cordova as his home town. He is married and has one child.



PHIL SMITH

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