

# Pt. Hope residents vent anger, question experiments

POINT HOPE-Some 40 residents turned out for public meetings to hear federal officials outline Project Chariot clean-up plans. The presentations by the experts were frequently interrupted by angry questions and comments from the villagers.

"Who gave you permission to come in and dump nuclear waste in our backyard?" demanded Ray Koonuk, North Slope Borough (NSB) Project Chariot coordinator for Pt. Hope.

"You used us as guinea pigs," charged Irma Hunnicutt.

"I lost my son to cancer," said Darold

Frankson. "My son was a hunter, and we would hunt over by Ogotoruk Creek. "We want the federal government to recognize why we are so upset."

Elder Dinah Frankson, testified in Inupiat about traditional uses of the Cape Thompson area: gathering murre eggs, picking berries, fishing for tomcod and hunting.

Simultaneous translation was provided by the NSB through personal receiver and translated by Leo Kinneeveak of Pt. Hope.

Some called for testing of marine mammals since they fear contamination from the radioactive experiments may have

flowed from Snowbank Creek into Ogotoruk Creek and into the Chukchi Sea. Northwest residents harvest the whales, seals and walrus from the sea.

Public comments on the draft clean-up plan are due March 24. It calls for site clean-up in July and August.

"You've got this plan here to clean up one 40 by 40 foot mound," says Rupert Koonuk, "but the government came up and did their experiments over thousands of acres. How are we going to get that cleaned up?"



**POINT HOPE VILLAGE COUNCIL** (l-r) Othnell Oomittuk, treasurer; Allen Rock, marshall; Carl Tuzroyluke, assistant marshall; William Liabourne, show manager; Bernard Nash, vice-president; Daniel Liabourne, president; Joe Frankeon, assistant secretary; Elijah Attungana, auditor; Patrick Attungana, secretary; Billy Weber, light plant manager; and Amos Lane, airstrip manager. 30 years ago these men had to deal with Project Chariot and now their successors have more problems, the consequences and aftermath of the same project.