

VILLAGE EQUIPMENT MOBILIZATION MEETS

Nine Governmental Agencies Confer With RurAL CAP

A planning conference was held at the State Economic Opportunity Office in Anchorage January 12, 1972, to determine the future of the Village Equipment Mobilization Program (VEMP) now being sponsored by RurAL CAP.

As VEMP has been on a pilot program basis which is scheduled to end June 30, 1972, the conference was called for the purpose of discussing ways & means of refunding the program. Agencies represented at the meeting were: RurAL CAP, State Economic Opportunity Office, Division of Vocational-Technical Education, Federal Aviation Administration, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska State Housing Authority, Alaska Area Native Health Service, Alaska Village Electric Co-op, Department of Military Affairs, Division of Aviation.

And, Department of Labor, Department of Highways, Community Enterprise Development Corporation, Rural Development Agency, and Congressman Nick Begich's Office.

These agencies indicated their

willingness to cooperate and plans to direct letters in support of the program.

Following the date of that meeting, a continuation program proposal was drafted by Oliver Amend, Director of the VEMP, and John Trautner, Management Specialist, SEOO.

One of the new concepts written into the program was not only the continuation of acquiring equipment for rural village use, but also the implementation of equipment maintenance and operational training at the village level by a team of mobile instructor mechanics.

A follow-up meeting was held March 1, 1972, and support of the program was shown by the participation of many of the same agencies represented at the first conference. One of the main purposes of the meeting was the coordination of efforts of the agencies working in the rural areas.

Funding commitments and pledges for maintenance and training were discussed at that time.