

PHS Officials Give Talks at ANB Meeting

Five U. S. Public Health officials from Alaska Native Health Area Office in Anchorage and two from Sitka were in Ketchikan this week to talk about public health matters at the Alaska Native Brotherhood meeting that convened there.

This was the fourth regional gathering of Native leaders this fall at which top PHS representatives have told the people directly of plans, methods and operations of the Division of Indian Health program in Alaska. Such appearances and ensuing discussions continue to emphasize the DIH policy of increasing involvement of the Native people in helping to care for their own health needs.

Dr. Charles Neilson, Deputy Director, represented Dr. Holman R. Wherritt, Area Director. He presented the broad concept of Native involvement under the DIH program.

Dr. John E. Butts, chief of Dental Services Branch, reviewed the dental space needs at the Ketchikan clinic along with Dr. George N. Wagnon, Service Unit Director at Mt. Edgecumbe, adjacent to Sitka.

Dr. Wagnon also told of recently added or improved services for beneficiaries in the service unit and he discussed briefly some possible additional programs at Mt. Edgecumbe for next year which would further the fulfillment of complete health care.

Perry C. Brackett, chief sanitation facilities con-

struction branch in the Office of Environmental health, discussed types of projects which can be achieved under Public Law 86-121.

This is legislation which enables the Surgeon General of the PHS to assist Indians and Alaska Natives provide sanitary facilities for their communities.

It is a cooperative program with both Natives and PHS contributing to the projects. Brackett represented Kenneth Lauster, chief of OEH.

Dr. John Herd, Field Health Chief of Mt. Edgecumbe Service Unit, presented the field health program for Fiscal Year 1967-68 and outline the projected medical and dental team visits.

Also attending from Anchorage were John Borbridge, Native Affairs officer, and Theodore Wirak, Area Executive Officer.