

Calista chooses new corporation president

A California man with a law degree in Canada and background in real estate development and natural resources has been selected as president of the Calista Corp., according to Calista Board Chairman Nelson Angapak.

The selection of Alex Raider of Los Angeles was announced Monday at the close of the June 1 Calista Board meeting in Anchorage. The board of directors also selected Louis Bunyon of Hooper Bay to fill the vacant board seat representing administrative unit nine. Bunyon was born and raised in Hooper Bay and has been working as a vocational development officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Bethel for the past seven years.

Raider has been an independent consultant for Raider Management Consultants in Los Angeles and is practicing attorney in Canada.

He previously has served as president of Weider Corp. in California, and general counsel of Pacific International Equities, a multi-national real estate company in Canada and the United States, and Ivaco Industries, a leading steel and industrial fasteners firm in Canada and the U.S. He has experience in mining, oil, gas and real estate and other related fields such as public financing, acquisitions and mergers.

Raider graduated from McGill University in Canada with a bachelors of arts degree in 1948 and from McGill Law School in 1951.

Of his selection, Raider said, "My wife and I are very happy to be in Anchorage and I feel very comfortable in my ability to turn this corporation around. I feel very confident of its successful future."

Calista Board Chairman Anga-

pak said "We are very happy with the selection of Alex Raider as president of Calista Corp. He has the full support of all the Calista directors."

Bunyon has served as chairman of the board for Sea Lion Corp. in Hooper Bay as well as working for the BIA.

Calista has undergone stormy weather in the past year.

The corporation's president and chief financial officer were fired in March, following mounting financial losses. Calista officials refused to give specific reasons for the dismissal of Oscar Kawagley, the corporation's president, and financial officer Manohar Nevaskar, but corporation reports showed that the regional corporation dropped a record \$7.2 million in 1980 and \$4.2 million in 1979.

The corporation's biggest loss was from the first-class Sheraton Anchorage Hotel which opened in 1979 and lost \$4 million in its first year.

Kawagley and Nevaskar were ousted when a Bethel-based group calling themselves Concerned Shareholders of Calista, formed to seek the two men's ouster.

They cited the financial losses and top-level unwillingness to listen to new ideas as reasons for their move.

At a shareholder's meeting last November, the group sought the ouster of the two but the matter was tabled without action. The Bethel group was joined by shareholders from the village of Emmonak in March, and their demands were met.

Beverly Hoffman, one of the Bethel group, said "Most of us

aren't business people but when you see yourself being hit with these losses of millions of dollars, it opens your eyes."

Martin B. Moore, president of Bethel Broadcasting, Inc., and vice-president of Emmonak Corp., and city manager of Emmonak, was named acting president of the corporation in March. Moore served as Calista president in 1977.

Calista is the state's second largest regional corporation and has investments in Settler's Bay Properties, a Wasilla-area development which was built in anticipation of the proposed capital move to Willow; a proposed shopping development at Pier 48 in Seattle; and the R&R Travel agency. All three investments have been losing money, according to corporation reports.