

Nicholls: RADC Good Project But Should Be Run By AFN

"The Rural Alaska Development Corporation is a good project," Hugh Nicholls said, calling the TUNDRA TIMES from Barrow this week.

"But it should be run by the Alaska Federation of Natives. Why create another administrative group when one already exists?"

RADC has helped for an OEO grant to run as a pilot project. Its goal is to develop village business its plan cooperatives, giving natives experience in managing their own business affairs.

"The plan is not new," Nicholls, executive director of the Arctic Slope Native

Association, pointed out. "It was developed several years ago by Al Fothergill and Charles Edwardson under ASCAP funds and should now go to ASCAP people."

Nicholls, who also serves on the ASCAP board, as representative of the Alaska Federation of Natives, said ASCAP was coming out with an alternative plan of native cooperatives that allows AFN to set up its own board of directors to administer the project after a year.

"Why hasn't the AFN been approached by the RADC people?" Nicholls asked.

(Continued on page 6)

RADC Project . .

(continued from Page 1)

"None of us heard about it." Nicholls said that if AFN gets the project, they probably would hire a capable full time director from outside to administer it.

The Alaska Federation of Natives never will be able to represent the natives as a group under their present constitution, according to Hugh Nicholls, executive secretary of the Arctic Slope Native Association, at Barrow this week.

Since the constitution calls for dues, it is selective about membership. Some people can pay, others can't he pointed out. Thus, AFN never will be able to stand for all the natives in court. It will be in the same position as the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

Nicholls favors financing AFN through contributions from its wealthier members, instead of through uniform dues for individuals.