

# AVCP-Yupiktat Bista seek contracts to run twenty-eight schools

According to Mr. Carl Jack, Executive Director of the Association of Village Council Presidents, Inc. and Yupiktat Bista, Inc., plans are underway to study the feasibility of AVCP, Inc. contracting for the operation of the 28 BIA schools in the AVCP (Bethel) Region. "The plan to do a feasibility study for the take over of the 28 BIA schools by AVCP is the result of concerns expressed by the people from the villages that

currently have BIA schools" stated Carl Jack. "Their concern is whether the quality of Education will suffer when REAA's take over their schools due to a lack of adequate funding."

The current goal of the State Department of Education is to take over all BIA schools in the next three (3) years or by 1979. Further, the State Commissioner of Education is trying very hard

to get the BIA to agree to keep funding the BIA schools even after REAA takes them over. Further the State Department of Education wants the BIA to keep paying for the following for 5 years after the REAA takes the BIA Schools over:

- (a) AVEC costs (19 schools)
- (b) Maintenance costs (32 schools)
- (c) Hot Lunch Program (32 schools)
- (d) New construction costs
- (e) Take all Title monies and
- (f) Operations including salaries, etc.

It is estimated that over the next 8 years, if the BIA schools are taken over by REAA's, that this will cost the AVCP more money than the Bethel Agency get to run schools and other program to the fact that the responsibility for paying for education will go from State to local government through Unorganized Borough concept that the State is working on.

The State of Alaska has been very reluctant to spend any of its general fund for bush education. The money from oil and other resources currently goes into the State general fund and currently the state is meeting their responsibility for bush education by two primary sources, one is through bond issues in which the public pays for it and the other is through BIA funding.

"The final decision for AVCP to take over the 28 BIA schools is contingent upon several factors: first is the full authorization by the AVCP delegates to undertake a feasibility study for the administration of the schools under contract with BIA. Second is the results of the feasibility study and third, which is probably more important than the first two is the consent from the villages for AVCP to administer the schools" Mr. Jack stated. "We have submitted a letter to the BIA notifying them of our intent to contract for these schools with copies to the Alaska Commissioner of Educa-



**CARL JACK**, Executive Director of the Association of Village Council Presidents, Inc. and Yupiktat Bista, Inc.

and affected REAA Boards Superintendents. This move have taken is within the spirit of the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act and as long as we intend to contract for these schools, the BIA cannot transfer them to the REAA's. If all goes well, AVCP will become the largest educational agency within the State of Alaska and will be able to maintain, if not escalate, the Federal support of the BIA schools." Mr. Jack further stated.