

# OEO CHIEF OPTIMISTIC AT RECENT MEETING

## National Director Expresses Outlook for Future OEO Prog's.

An optimistic outlook for the future of anti-poverty programs was offered by Alvin J. Arnett, national director for the Office of Economic Opportunity at a recent meeting in Seattle.

The director told members of the Washington State Association of Community Action Agencies that there has been a dramatic up-surge in congressional support for OEO as a result of pleas for clemency from municipal leaders and state governors.

He commented that two months ago, probably 100 congressional votes could not have been obtained to save OEO, but chances now are about 60/40 in favor of passing a bill to extend the program for three more years.

Since some legislative extension appears more likely, Arnett indicated that the problem would now be to try to lessen the threat of a presidential veto. Should this happen, Arnett is of the opinion that Congress would not override it, although he noted that the previous strong veto threat may have been tempered by recent action of a majority of governors, who have endorsed extension of the anti-poverty bill, and the National League of Cities, which passed a favorable resolution.

Michael C. Harper, executive director of RurAL CAP, Alaska's anti-poverty agency, who attended the meeting on March 24, reported that Arnett was obviously impressed by the attitude of the state administration for the agency, and during a general session mentioned a letter of support that had been received from Governor Egan on behalf of RurAL CAP activities.

Commenting that this was the kind of response from the may-

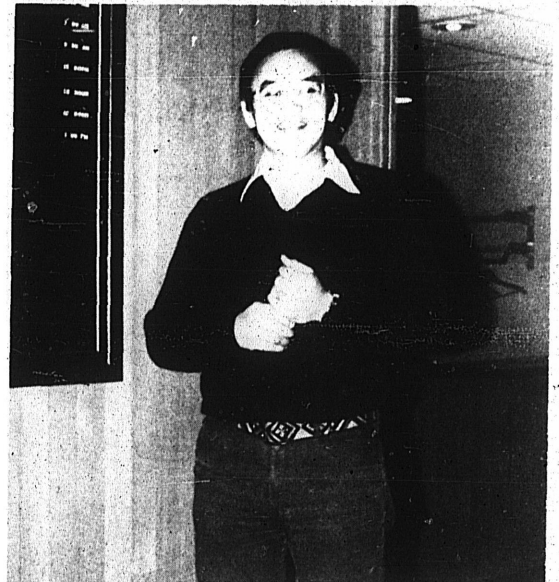
ors and governors of the nation that was causing the Congress to reconsider OEO, with the result of an optimistic outlook for the future of the agency.

Sen. Jacob Javits, Republican from New York, has urged that the very popular Community Enterprise Development program in OEO, rather than being transferred to the Department of Commerce. Also, the Senior Citizens' program still remains in OEO rather than being transferred to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The Alaskan delegation, consisting of Ed Anders, special assistant to the governor; RurAL CAP board members Jonathan Solomon from Fort Yukon, and Richard Whittaker of Ketchikan; Joli Morgan of Community Enterprise Development Corporation (CEDC), Anchorage; along with Harper, met at what was considered to be a beneficial luncheon with the national poverty director in Seattle.

Harper said that Arnett was invited to visit Alaska for a firsthand look at poverty problems still existing in rural areas, and although a tight schedule precluded the possibility at this time, Arnett indicated that he was interested and might have an opportunity to come to the state later in the spring.

It is felt that in previous years, visits to Alaska by concerned persons such as Sargent Shriver and Ted Kennedy have proven helpful.



**CAP OFFICIAL** — Mike Harper is steering the far flung operations of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program covering the huge state. Mike is originally from Fairbanks and he is the executive director of RurAL CAP. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Doyon, Limited, the regional corporation of the Tanana Chiefs.