

Harper on Cutbacks

CAP Head Scores Cutbacks on TV

Mike Harper, Executive Director of RurAL CAP, discussed the cutbacks of the community action agencies on a St. Louis television program (Channel 11) recently.

When asked the question, "Isn't poverty a greater problem in the urban areas rather than Alaska?", Harper replied that, "... the incidence or degree of poverty in rural Alaskan villages is far greater than poverty levels in many of the most blighted inner cities of America."

He explained to the television audience that the RurAL Alaska Community Action Agency would still serve a useful purpose — that of advocating for low income citizens in rural Alaska, and of offering all people in the State the mechanisms whereby they can participate in the major decision making process.

Harper was requested to speak on TV when he was in St. Louis attending the annual National Association for Com-

munity Development which was held April 9 - 12.

The CAP director said that although he attempted to speak primarily on the need for CAAs and people-oriented problems, the greater part of the taped interview was focused on the Alaska pipeline.

Clearly, national attention is on our pipeline situation. It was explained that the current Supreme Court decision of upholding the decision to enforce the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 was forcing the Congress to come up with legislation that would change the rules.

Harper commented that misinformation and misconception on the pipeline by people in the Lower 48 was the rule rather than the exception.

"Hopefully," the director said, "I set the record straight with some of the people in St. Louis, not only on some aspects of poverty in Alaska, but also gave them a better picture of the pipeline situation".