



RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS



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CAP DIRECTORS SEND HORTON SOME HINTS

The RurAL CAP Regional Directors' Meeting in Anchorage on Sept. 6, and 7 was well attended, with almost all of the Regional Directors present. The most significant action taken by the group was a letter to Assistant Secretary of the Interior Jack Horton, regarding the Native Allotment Issue. The letter reads as follows:

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Honorable Jack O. Horton
Assistant Secretary of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

September 7, 1973

Dear Mr. Assistant Secretary:

This letter is in response to your request for written comments on the guidelines proposed in your June 6, 1973 memorandum regarding the processing of Alaska Native Allotment applications.

We feel that several of the proposed guidelines are overly strict and not in keeping with the original intent of the Allotment Act as we see it. That is, to allow large tracts of land to enable Alaska Natives to maintain their traditional subsistence way of life. The policies you proposed would have the effect of taking away from thousands of Alaskans the right to continue using the lands that they have used for years. Our positions on some of these policies are as follows:

We feel the effective date of an allotment should be the date of occupancy rather than the date of filing. Very few people knew of the Allotment Act before 1968 so most applications were filed after this date. The land applied for, however, was in most cases used for years before this date.

That there must be actual substantial physical evidence of use and occupancy is, we feel, an irresponsible and patently unrealistic requirement. Anyone who is even vaguely familiar with Alaska Native land use patterns should be able to recognize the fact that most of these patterns do not leave physical marks on the land. If, however, field examinations must be made, the field examiners should make their inspections at the time the land is being used. This would insure that temporary evidence, such as winter campsites and trails, and fishing devices that are set up seasonally would be noted by the field examiner.

We think it extremely important that the field examiners be local people. This would insure that the field examiners would be generally more aware of local land use patterns and would be better able to evaluate an allotment.

We also think that field examination reports should be sent to the applicants concerned so that they would know the status of their applications and would be able to clarify any mis-information or lack of information concerning their allotment.

That filings that are in conflict with areas of prior community use will be denied is, in our opinion, another requirement that implies ignorance of Alaska Native land use patterns. That one person commonly uses a given piece of land does not necessarily mean that he will make an effort to keep all others off of this land, and that others may sometimes use the same land does not necessarily mean that they do not recognize the applicant's right to the land. This is a fairly common situation in a culture that does not delineate land ownership by building fences.

In the case of overlapping allotments, we feel that the applicants themselves should settle the matter rather than involve an outside mediator who would be more likely to make arbitrary decisions that would be unfair to the applicants involved.

We respectfully submit these comments for your consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to express our position.

Sincerely,

Martina Little for Perry Mendenhall
Kawerak, Inc.

Jim Huntington

Allen Panamaroff
Kodiak Community Development Corporation

Ronald Solomon for Donald Peter
Upper Yukon Development Corporation

Trefon Angasan
Bristol Bay Development Corporation

Reed Stoops
Southeast Alaska CAP

John Emal for Harold Napoleon
Yupikpak Bista, Inc.

Hector Ewan
Copper Valley-Tanana Development Corp.

Dimitri Philemonof
Aleutian Planning Commission

Rural Alaska Community Action Program Regional Directors

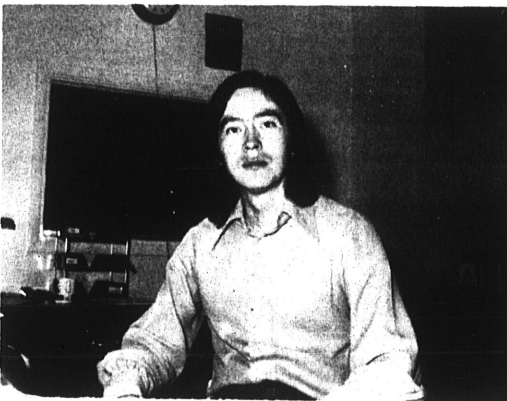
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Also on the agenda, was presentation from Ms. Harie Simpson, representing the Neighborhood Family Service Center in Anchorage. She explained the Welfare and the Food Stamps Program as they affect residents of rural Alaska. Also explained was the transfer of certain

categories of Welfare to Administration through the Social Security Administration (see accompanying article).

The Alaska Department of Highways was represented by Mr. Joe Steen, who discussed the Local Roads and Trails Act as it applies to Alaskan villages. Many of the directors had questions concerning the Act and Mr. Steen explained that information on the Act and application for funds in Alaskan villages can be obtained from the district engineer in whatever highway district the village lies in.

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ADELARD BEYLUND, Planner

Beylund Becomes Agency Planner

A new staff member for RurAL CAP is Adelard Beylund, who assumed the position of planner for the agency, which includes being director of the Human Resource Development Department, and Housing.

Beylund was born in Dillingham and attended Palmer High School; Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash.; Anchorage Community College and Alaska Methodist University. He majored in Fine Arts and also has an

extensive background in architecture, having worked for local and Seattle architectural firms. The new planner said that he has taken employment with RurAL CAP because he wishes to become involved with the interests and problems of people in the rural areas.

His hobbies include Native cultural anthropology, Fine Arts and music.

Harper Says "Maintain Vigilance" As Arnett Is Confirmed

RurAL CAP has learned that the U.S. Senate confirmed Mr. Alvin J. Arnett to be the director of OEO on Wednesday, September 12.

In Nixon's budget message to Congress this past January, OEO was essentially to be closed as of June 30 and Mr. Howard Phillips was named acting director to dismantle the anti-poverty agency.

Many of its functions were terminated and employees discharged, but in April, a federal judge stopped the dismantling process by ruling that the acting director, Howard Phillips, was acting without proper authority.

Phillips resigned and Mr. Arnett, one of his assistants, was selected by President Nixon to be the acting director.

Mike Harper, RurAL CAP Executive Director, commented that it was still unclear whether or not Mr. Arnett would wholeheartedly support the appropriations measure before Congress, and if needed, to fight for OEO's existence, if the President vetoes the OEO legislation.

Harper stated, "My best reading of the situation is that we, as OEO interested supporters, must not lose vigilance of the

funding battles. It is my understanding," he continued, "that Mr. Arnett is calling a meeting of all of his regional OEO directors next week, and shortly

thereafter, I am sure we will have a clearer indication of what the future of OEO holds for community action agencies such as ours."

Carroll President Of ANCADA, Amouak Moves To NIAAA Job

Richard C. Carroll, city manager of the City of Fort Yukon, has been chosen president of the Alaska Native Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. This action was taken at the annual ANCADA Board meeting Aug. 30 and 31.

Carroll succeeds Ralph Amouak, who resigned his position as president and executive director of the commission to become the projects director for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA).

Amouak will, however, serve the ANCADA board in an ex-officio capacity for a period of one year.

Lillie McGarvey, Aleut Corporation, was selected to serve as the secretary of the board. Mrs. McGarvey succeeds Evelyn Myers who has recently moved to Anchorage to head the Alcoholism Training Program at RurAL CAP.

Judge Nora Guinn of Bethel, Carole Drake of Nome, and Eve-

lyn Myers of Anchorage were selected to fill member-at-large vacancies on the board.

Ray Smith, Yakutat, was selected by Tlingit Haida Central Council as the representative from that region.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the support of Al Adams, director Rural Development Assistance, and his pledge to work in coordination with Amouak and the NIAAA mini grant program.

Most villages, who have applied for the \$5,000-\$10,000 grants, have requested community hall facilities. NIAAA will purchase the materials for a community hall and furnish transportation costs; however, restrictions prevent them from paying for labor to construct the facilities.

According to Adams, RDA grants may be available to those villages to provide the labor to build structures where NIAAA has supplied materials and transportation.

Welfare Benefits To Change

Unless some changes in current legislation come about in the near future, many Alaskans who are on welfare will be receiving less money every month than they have been, according to Ms. Harie Simpson, from the Anchorage Neighborhood Family Service Center.

Addressing the RurAL CAP Regional Directors Meeting in Anchorage on Sept. 7, Mrs. Simpson explained that recent Federal legislation requires the transfer of categorical Welfare Programs (including Aid to the Blind, Aid to the Disabled, and Old age benefits) from the State Welfare Department to the Social Security Administration.

This means that individuals who are receiving benefits in these areas will be receiving substantially less money after Jan. 1. Also, older people will particularly suffer.

This is because the present \$100 a month income that older Alaskans receive will be counted toward an older person's total income after the first of the year.

People in rural Alaska who have questions about this subject or who wish to make statements may contact either their RurAL CAP Regional Director's Office, the RurAL CAP central office in Anchorage, or Mrs. Harie Simpson, Neighborhood Family Service Center, 1213 East Tenth Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501.