

EDUCATION TASK FORCE ASSEMBLED

Will Give Information to Rural Areas

A Task Force for Community Education has been brought together by RurAL CAP for the purpose of disseminating information to outlying areas. The RurAL CAP Board of Directors has felt that there are two needs to be met: First, there is an immediate need for infor-

mation so that villages can effectively deal with questions concerning the Land Claims Settlement Act and Local Government. And, second, that there is a long range need for the schools in each community to be the focal point for community education.

Several meetings were held with representatives of the State Department of Education, Alaska State-Operated Schools, State Office of Economic Opportunity, National Education Association, and the Alaska Native Foundation.

RurAL CAP has accepted the responsibility of collecting, collating, and distributing the relevant information, as requested by the villages.

As the result of a meeting in early November with the NEA Alaska Curriculum Commission and other representatives of the Task Force, the Commission endorsed the idea of a pilot program, using the school systems in five villages. A proposal was written for submission to the State Department of Education which would fund a group of educators to work with appropriate agencies to develop, by next spring, a complete set of materials on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and Local Government. This will be distributed to all teachers in the schools of Alaska by next September.

Nils Sara, Trainer for RurAL CAP, said that the program was going well in St. Marys and Bethel, the students are interested and teachers are en-

thusiastic, yet sensitive to the fact that it is an immensely difficult area. These two communities are not designated in the pilot project, but both have requested the information.

Members of the Task Force include Sally Jaime from State-Operated Schools; Eva Kriger from the Bureau of Indian Affairs; Lare' from the State Economic Opportunity Office; Roger Lang formerly with the Alaska Native Foundation, now with the Alaska Federation of Natives; Terry Stimson representing the National Education Association; George Swift from the State Department of Education; Baxter Wood, State-Operated Schools; and from RurAL CAP, Phil Smith, Deputy Director, and Nils Sara, Trainer.