

ASCAP Interior Target Area Advisory Board Meets in Nenana

Last week, March 15-16, the Interior Target Area Advisory Board of the Alaska State Community Action Program met in the Nenana Community Hall in Nenana.

The meeting was chaired by Alfred Ketzler, Target Area Representative for ASCAP. Ketzler is the Nenana resident.

It was generally felt that the interior representatives left the meeting with broad and fuller understanding of what the ASCAP program is all about and how programs, such as the Head Start, function within the organization.

The Advisory Board made the following recommendations:

1) That the language of the villages be spoken at meetings so more thorough understanding of the pro-

grams by ASCAP can be realized by the local residents.

2) Listing of programs and the proper people to contact concerning those programs in the Action Reports. The Action Reports is the weekly publication of ASCAP for the information and education of all Alaskans within the area served by ASCAP.

3) Make sure that the Interior Target Area Advisory Board and the programs it recommends are on Action Reports.

4) That community centers be established in villages as soon as possible.

Although the above matter was discussed at important lengths, the State Senate Bill 376 took up considerable part of the Nenana meeting.

After discussion of the bill, Robert F. Mott, advisory board member from Fort Yukon, made a motion that the board opposes Governor Walter J. Hickel and the bill for the intent that the State take over ASCAP.

The motion was seconded by Harry Kaleak of Barrow and it carried unanimously.

A telegram voicing opposition to the bill was drawn up and sent to Senator Elton Engstrom of Juneau, chairman of the Senate State Affairs Committee.

Opposition to SB 376

formed last week when Senator Engstrom held a public hearing to get a reading on the feelings of the Alaska citizens.

ASCAP executive director Larry Brayton told the committee at the hearing that he feared "the present good cooperation of the target area people would be eliminated if the people lost the concept of helping themselves and began to see Community Action as an official, formal agency, like the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Department of Welfare."

Brayton said in Juneau that Community Action works in Alaska because it really can be action by, of, and for the villages.

"We cannot go in and throw programs to the villagers. We know that the plans and ideas THEY want to develop are the ones that will survive in the end," he said.

Interior Target Area Advisory Board meeting was attended by Robert F. Mott, Fort Yukon; Noah Ahgook, Anaktuvuk Pass; Harry Kaleak, Barrow; Ned Nusunginya, Kaktovik on Barter Island; Peter John, Minto; Richard Grant, Tanana; Alphonse Demientieff, Nenana; John Luke, Tanacross; and board chairman, Alfred Ketzler, Nenana.