

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AMONG DISCUSSIONS

Despite Costs Head Start May Do OK

Although an extraordinary price increase in travel and in fuel costs has hit the rural areas, the Head Start Program for the coming school year 1974-1975 should serve the same amount of children that have been served the past year, reported Mr. Elmer Armstrong, Chairman of the RurAL CAP Board of Directors.

The RurAL CAP staff reported that at their annual planning meeting for the next year, several important decisions were made that will provide direction to the staff for next year's operation of the Head Start Program which serves 30 village centers and four urban centers.

St. Paul Island and Nondalton (an Athabascan community in the Bristol Bay Region) will run programs next year for the first time.

Roger Mooney, Director for RurAL CAP's Early Childhood Program, further commented that probably the most exciting thing that happened for the Early Childhood and the state now, is the training being furnished to several very worthy candidates for the confidentiality based child development associates degree.

Alaska Methodist University is sponsoring the training for 10 candidates that not only have the varied experience but also have taken accredited courses from other universities over the past six and seven years.

"I think these Head Start Personnel have proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that regardless of formal education and accreditation that given the adequate training and experience, these people can do just as good a job if not better than a highly credentialed outsider that does not have a feel for the village situation," reported Mike Harper, Executive Director of RurAL CAP.



FORT YUKON MEETING — Pictured above: Jonathan Solomon, Richard Whittaker, Sam Kito of Doyon Limited, Vic Robinett of RCA, Walt Parker, Charles Buck, and Glenn Stanley from the University of Alaska.



STEWART NICOLAI, RurAL CAP Alcoholism Counselor for the Copper Center area chosen to attend Conference.

Stewart Nicolai Going to Wash.

Stewart Nicolai, Copper Valley/Tanana Regional Development Corporation Alcoholism Counselor was selected as a representative to attend a National Alcoholism Conference in Washington, D.C.

The fourth Annual Alcoholism Conference of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism will address topics in research, treatment, and prevention. Highlighting treatment

sessions will be a panel on "American Indian Youth on Alcohol Abuse."

Evelyn Myers, RurAL CAP Alcoholism Training Coordinator, stated that this was the first time that a RurAL CAP Counselor will be attending a National Conference. The June 12-14 Conference will provide Stewart an opportunity to review our program to others in the United States.

Fort Yukon Meeting Possibly Most Exciting

Passage of the RurAL CAP Head Start Grant Application, ACTION supporting the Bristol Bay Fisheries Disaster Area, and a panel discussion regarding rural telecommunications were the highlights of the RurAL CAP spring board meeting held in Fort Yukon on May 15 and 16.

Elmer Armstrong, Representative from the Northwest, Matanuska Region, and Chairman of the RurAL CAP State Board of Directors commented that this was very possibly one of the most exciting board meetings that held wide-ranging discussions on problems as diverse as administering urban Head Start Programs to advocating that the Federal State Department recognize that the Bristol Bay Area should be considered a Federal Disaster Area.

Armstrong further commented that OEO/RurAL CAP continues to show the lead to many Federal and State Agencies by supporting the Bristol Bay Area Development Corporation in their efforts to replace the depleted salmon industry with some type of federally funded work programs.

The RurAL CAP Board gave direction to Mike Harper, Executive Director to further seek funds for the Bay Region to support possibly three to five early childhood programs next fall with a combined elderly/hot meals program.

Harper commented that, "We hope federal funds become available so that at least this small request be granted and hopefully, this action will loosen the purse strings of other federal

money that should by all rights go into the Bristol Bay Region.

Gordon Jackson was unanimously elected Vice-President of the Board of Directors as a replacement for Al Ketzler.

Vic Robinett and Lou Castriani of RCA presented a status report on bush communications including a brief review of the bush phone system and an expanded report on planned telecommunications expansion.

Charles Buck, Tele-Communications Consultant and the Governor's Office and Sam Kito of Doyon Limited had a lively exchange on the subject of a telecommunications legislation package that died in this last legislative session.

Professor Glenn Stanley of the University of Alaska also participated in the panel discussion.

The Board of Directors thanked their gracious hosts in Fort Yukon by passing a resolution that formally allotted the potlatch given by Adie Shewfelt and Mrs. Jonathan Solomon Wednesday evening, May 15.

Charles Hodges, Region X, OEO, Alaska Operations staffer gave the status report regarding HR 14449 on which hinges the fate of RurAL CAP and all other Community Action Programs across the nation.

Looks Glum at This Point—Future of Poverty War

The very existence of RurAL CAP and its 10 development corporations such as: SEACAP and Koyukon just to name two of their regionally funded, private, non-profit, corporations is dependent now upon national legislation currently in the form of HR 14449.

Charles Hodges of Region X recently reported to the RurAL CAP Board of Directors that HR 14449 is not the most agreeable legislative Bill to compromise

on, the all-important minority leadership in the House of Representatives will probably recommend that the President veto any more liberal legislation.

Hodges also reported that the Senate would probably pass legislation that would very possibly call for a simple three-year straight extension of what we now know as OEO.

However, it is expected that in free conference committee, the House of Representatives will emerge and be passed by both Houses of Congress.

Executive Director of RurAL CAP, Mike Harper, reported that, "We expect that President Nixon will veto any OEO legislation but we also expect that the Congress will be able to override the veto because it will be in such a form that our former enemies will be supportive of that particular piece of legislation."

Harper expressed gratitude to the staff and the entire RurAL CAP structure, both in the regional offices and in the Central Anchorage staff for holding tight and keeping their dedication to do a job for the low-income people of rural Alaska in spite of these hard financial crisis that make it difficult to carry-on a normal working attitude.

Bristol Bay Fish Devastation Topic

A meeting was held in Juneau on May 22 in regard to the present situation in the Bristol Bay Area, brought about by the fishery devastation and its affect of the people and the economy.

In attendance were members of the Federal Regional Council from Seattle, State Department Commissions, Bristol Bay Native Corporation Officers (Harold Samuelsen and Ted Angasan) and RurAL CAP Representative, Jacqueline Dailey.

The main purpose of the conference was to exchange information on the availability of federal and state funds and/or manpower to expand on implement programs/projects, which would replace the loss of income.

Also discussed, reported Jacqueline Dailey, was the need for the President to declare Bristol Bay a Federal disaster area in order to open up and expedite avenues of federal assistance.

Mr. Samuelsen outlined the position of Bristol Bay Native Corporation on behalf of the Bristol Bay people. Besides giving

the general background and present situation of that area, he emphasized the need for assistance in the form of community-related projects rather than strictly welfare assistance programs.

Mr. Samuelsen urged the Governor to declare, by executive order, to the state departments that Bristol Bay become priority number one.

Three resolutions adopted by the RurAL CAP Board of Directors at their meeting in Fort Yukon on May 15 and 16 in support of: the President declaring Bristol Bay a disaster area, Bristol Bay being rehabilitated by the state, and Bristol Bay salmon depletion being addressed at the International Law of the Sea Conference.

The Department of Community and Regional Affairs was designated to be the coordinator between state departments and other organizations.

The Federal Regional Council also intends to respond within the near future on what assistance

it can provide.

It was implied that Bristol Bay would receive top priority by the state and future meetings are anticipated to be held, hopefully in the Bristol Bay Region.



OEO — Pictured above: Elmer Armstrong, Chairman RurAL CAP Board, Charles Hodges, Region X OEO Alaska Operations. Hodges explains the future possibilities for CAP.