

# TELECOMMUNICATIONS AMONG DISCUSSIONS



**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.

## 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, Mau-neluk 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 Castri-ni 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 pot-latch 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.



OEO — Pictured above: Elmer Armstrong, Chairman Rural CAP Board, Charles Hodges, Re-

gion X OEO Alaska Operations. Hodges explains the future possibilities for CAP.