

# Commissioner Byron Mallott-

## *Head New Department of Community and Regional Affairs*

JUNEAU — Governor William A. Egan appointed Byron Mallott, who has headed the state Local Affairs Agency the past year and a half, as commissioner of Alaska's new Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Mallott was sworn into his new post by Superior Court Judge Thomas B. Stewart at a

mid-morning ceremony in Governor Egan's office. At 29, the new commissioner is the youngest of the 16 departmental administrators in Egan's cabinet.

The department he will organize and head was proposed in legislation submitted by the governor and approved during the 1972 session.

Its purpose, as set forth in the

legislation, "is to render maximum state assistance to government at the community and regional level."

This includes advising and assisting local governments on planning, financial and other matters, administering state funds appropriated for the benefit of unorganized regions of the

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# Mallott . . .

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state, studying existing and proposed laws as to their effect on such areas, coordinating state activities having an impact on community and regional affairs, and serving as staff to the Local Boundary Commission and the Rural Affairs Commission.

In making the appointment, Egan cited Mallott's work as Local Affairs Agency director and said the new commissioner "has an outstanding background and relationship with municipal leadership throughout the state, both in urban and rural areas, and has an excellent grasp of community and regional needs."

Egan said the new department "will provide a coordinated effort and better organization for meeting these important needs."

Mallott joined the Egan administration as local affairs director in January 1971. Before that he headed the Rural Alaska Community Action Program and had served as a special assistant to Alaska Senator Mike Gravel.

Mallott was born in Yakutat and has served as mayor there. He graduated from Sheldon Jackson Junior College in 1961 and then attended West Washington State College, studying political science.

He has served as a member of the Alaska Federation of Natives board of directors, and as Alaska area vice president for the National Congress of American Indians.