

KOTZEBUE PROTESTS HEAD START CLOSURE

State Fire Marshall Nixes Arctic Way of Closing Door Inward

The City of Kotzebue has protested the closing of their Head Start center by the State Fire Marshall. The Head Start center was closed because of minor violations of the fire code, including the fact that the fire escape door opens in and not out.

Elmer Armstrong, Mayor of Kotzebue noted that in the Arctic it is a necessity for doors to open in because of the problem of snow drifts which could prevent the door from opening at all if there were a fire.

John Shively, Executive Director of RurAL CAP noted that the Kotzebue Head Start center was in one of the best buildings of any of the Head Start pro-

grams in the State.

He stated, "These programs have been running for five years and this is the first one to be shut down." Shively added, "The closing of the Kotzebue center points out the extreme importance of House Bill No. 279 which would provide \$100,000 through the Rural Development Agency for renovation of Head Start centers."

Shively also said that this Bill, introduced by Representative Martin Moore of Emmonak, is of major importance if we want the young children of rural Alaska to attend preschool in the most comfortable and safest setting possible.