

# Alaska Seen as Linkage Of Cultures for Goals

**COLLEGE**—Alaska may be one of the last areas in the United States where cultural groups can join together to strive toward common goals, asserted Elmer Rasmuson, Chairman, Board of Regents, University of Alaska, speaking at the concluding banquet for the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service Staff, 4-H and Youth Conference, March 13.

Mr. Rasmuson also stressed that developing the worthiness of an individual is a vital aspect of youth programs.

Reverend Eugene Walters, First Methodist Church, Anchorage, opening speaker at the conference discussed youth sub-culture. He stated that today's youth are facing the same issues as yesterday's youth only they are in different "clothing." These include sex, rebellion, freedom, and identity.

Reverend Walters also discussed increasing amounts of leisure time young people will be having in the future and the importance of opportunities to make constructive use of such time.

"All behavior is expressed in the situation that allows it," stated Mrs. Andrian Bontje of Anchorage. Mrs.

Bontje discussed the cultural values of low income people.

She went on to say that understanding behavior from the standpoint of being able to relate their experiences in oneself will help in developing youth programs for low income people.

Dr. Loyens, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Alaska, stated, "Understanding the background of Native people's own culture is probably the best thing we can do for him."

Dr. Loyens discussed the cultural characteristics of the Tlingit, Haida, Athabascan and Eskimo peoples.

The conference theme was "4-H Is Flexible." The overall objective was to broaden understanding of Alaska's many cultural groups, as well as examine 4-H programs and their adaptability to these people, according to Harlem Sandberg, State 4-H and Youth Leader for the Cooperative Extension Service.