

# Alaska Supreme Court Travels to Barrow

The Alaska Supreme Court will travel to Barrow in March to hear oral argument in the pending appeals concerning the state portion of the Beaufort Sea oil and gas lease sale held in December 1979.

The argument will be held on Wednesday morning, March 25, 1981.

"It will be a very important occasion with the people up here who will have a first hand look at how our judicial system works in Alaska," Jacob Adams, North Slope Borough mayor said. "It gives the Supreme court judges an opportunity to take a look at what's happening up here."

"The Barrow courtroom probably won't be able to handle all the people that may be in attendance here. We suggested an alternative to using the courthouse which is to use the school gymnasium," Adams

said. "In the last letter we wrote to the court system, we suggested that we use the school gymnasium for the supreme court hearing." Adams is awaiting their response.

This will be the Supreme Court's first session in Barrow. The court regularly holds argument in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau, and in the past has also held sessions in Kenai, Ketchikan and Kodiak.

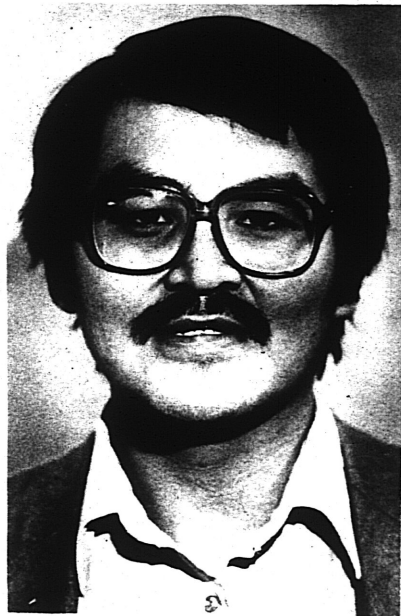
Superior Court Judge Jay Hodges travelled to Barrow in May 1980 for oral argument in this case. Portions of his decision have been appealed by all parties: the North Slope Borough

and its officials, several villages on the North Slope, the State of Alaska, and some of the oil companies which obtained offshore leases at the December 1979 sale.

The lawsuit of the Inupiat asserting unextinguished title and sovereign jurisdiction over the sea used traditionally in subsistence hunting from beyond the three mile limit up to 65 miles from offshore will not be heard at this hearing.

The North Slope Borough has a media set-up with satellite hook-up capabilities. The Top of the World Hotel there can house up to 70 people.

At this time of the year it's cold up there!



Jake Adams