

CEDC Co-ops Have Village Impacts

The first annual meeting of the Board of Directors of Community Enterprise Development Corporation opened in public session today at the Anchorage-Vestward Hotel.

Community Enterprise Development Corporation is a non-profit private corporation funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity to assist low-income residents of rural Alaska in the formation of cooperatives and other community-owned and operated enterprises.

Its Board of Directors, which determines corporation policy, is made up of Native representatives of the various co-ops supported by CEDC, as well as one delegate from each of the nine Regional Development Corpor-

ations.

The public session was addressed by representatives of various rural co-ops supported by CEDC: six fishing co-ops, located in the Kotzebue delta, Yukon delta, Kotzebue Sound, Norton Sound, Goodnews Bay, and Larson Bay; two consumer co-ops in Manokotak and Akiachak villages; and an arts and crafts co-op in Shismaref.

The Native leaders described the economic and social changes which have occurred in their village as a result of co-op activity.

Keynote speaker at the afternoon session was Donald Snowden, Director of Adult Education at Memorial University in New Foundland. Snowden was form-

erly Director of Cooperative Development for the Department of Northern and Indian Affairs and has many years of experience in the Canadian Arctic.

One of the highlights of the day-long meeting was a film of five fishing co-ops in action, made during the 1969 summer season. The film is designed to be shown in Alaskan villages which have expressed interest in forming their own cooperatives.

Brief addresses were made by representatives of various agencies which have had extensive experience in rural Alaska and have worked closely with CEDC: Clyde Courtnage of the Economic Development Administration, Mr. Glen Alexander of the Small Business Administration, Peter von Christierson of the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, Byron Mallot of RurAL CAP, and Willie Hensley of the Alaska Federation of Natives.