

# TT TICKLER

If some villages in rural Alaska think they have been getting the run-around in their requests for action from government agencies, they had ought to listen to this story the Honorable Nathaniel Olemaun, Jr., City Mayor of Barrow, has to tell about a request made by his municipality. It started in 1962, when a huge storm raged across the arctic slope. Debris from a government installation at Shooting Station near Barrow was blown into a bay used by local residents for duck hunting. The City Council adopted a resolution asking the Alaska Congressional Delegation to assist the residents in getting the appropriate governmental agency to clean up the mess. Letters were sent from congressional offices to the Department of the Navy asking removal of the debris, as the Navy has jurisdiction over the property. The Navy's response was that the installation was in use by the U.S. Air Force for a DEW Line station, and that it was the Air Force's responsibility to clean up the junk. The Air Force, in turn, said that the debris had been removed from the DEW Line site into the bay, and it was thus the responsibility of the Coast Guard to accomplish the removal. The Coast Guard conducted an investigation into the matter and responded that the debris was not in the bay, as was reported, but rested along the shoreline. Since the material was along the shoreline, the Coast Guard insisted, the responsibility for the clean-up rested with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers then conducted its own investigation, and reported back that, since the property was under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Navy, the responsibility to clean up the mess rested with the Navy. The buck was passed full-circle back to the Navy. The mess is still there, and Nate and the City Council and the people of Barrow are left shaking their heads in wonder. "Nothing has been moved except a lot of paper," Nate tells the Tundra Times.