

# ACLU Holds First Meeting In Anchorage

The State Board of the Alaska Civil Liberties Union held its first meeting on November 16 at the Unitarian Church in Anchorage. Eventually the Board will consist of five members from each of the chapters in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau, but the Juneau chapter is not yet organized and was not represented at this first meeting.

Arthur Hippler of Fairbanks, who has been acting as state coordinator since last summer, was elected president of the board. Hippler will attend the next meeting of the National Board in New York in December and while there will seek to improve liaison between the national and state organizations.

Discussion of the immediate objectives of the ACLU occupied most of the meeting. Equal application of the law to persons of all races was seen as the most serious problem at this time.

Also of concern is the assurance of due process of law to persons accused of crime within the state.

Freedom of speech, press and assembly will be high on the agenda of the civil rights group, although Alaskan problems in this area are not as pressing as those in other parts of the country.

Finally, the Board agreed on the need for continuing scrutiny of pending legislation which may impinge on civil liberties.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for January 4 in Fairbanks.