

BARROW CO. PROGRESSES

Corp. Will Repay Government Over 20 Years \$1 Million

By Hugh Nicholls

On Tuesday, January 11, the second annual meeting of members of Barrow Utilities, Inc., was held in the old school building in the village.

This utility company, which furnishes natural gas and electricity to consumers in the village of Barrow is owned and operated by and for the local residents.

At 7:40 p.m., the meeting was brought to order by Wyman Panigeo, president, and the roll of members was called by Lester Savlu, secretary, to insure a quorum. Of a total membership of 234 there were 115 present. Then followed reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, after which Eddie Hopson, treasurer, presented the yearly financial report, which showed the new company to be on a sound financial basis after its first year of operation.

Following the treasurer's report, election was held to appoint three new members to the board of directors. Abel Akpik, Tom Brower, Sr., and John Stein were duly elected by majority vote to fill three existing vacancies on the board. Then came a discussion of new business and topics of general interest concerning the corporation in

which many members took an active part.

It is interesting to note that almost the entire meeting was conducted in the local native dialect, which only serves to strengthen this writer's opinion that our schools, whether BIA or State operated, should give a few hours weekly to instruction in the local dialect, where these schools have predominately native pupils.

One more point was made very clear at the meeting, also. Many unknowing people presume that the government is giving the native people local improvements without cost or charge to them. But such is not the case in Barrow, where a loan of \$640,000 was obtained to finance the Barrow Utilities Corporation. This loan is to be repaid in 20 years in yearly payments. The interest on this loan, to be paid by the people of Barrow using the facilities, amounts to \$415,525.41. In the 20 years they will repay principal and interest amounting to \$1,055,525.41. From the looks of these figures, it would pay the Government to do more business with its own native people and less with foreign governments, profitwise.