

# HARPER ADDRESSES HEALTH COMMITTEE

## Harper Argues Over Pipeline Construction

The executive director of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, (RurAL CAP), Mike Harper, has come out strongly against "the attitude in the state government, recently expressed by Commissioner Mallott, that construction of the pipeline will not have adverse affects outside of the pipeline corridor."

Quoting from a position paper prepared by RurAL CAP, (which has been supplied to the commissioner), Harper notes: "There is general agreement that the impact will be profound, far-reaching, irreversible, and probably negative" on the traditional rural Alaskan lifestyle.

"Any way you look at it,"

says Harper, "there is going to be a major impact, even away from the pipeline corridor. I am thinking of such things as inflation, subsistence hunting and fishing, health, education, and a whole series of other concerns."

Most significantly, the political power of the rural areas will diminish as the population increases in the urban areas. This, it seems to me, is reason enough to be concerned about impact."

Harper goes on to say, "I am dismayed that a highly-placed state official can come to the conclusion that the impact will be 'beneficial' when the state has utterly failed to examine the impact on rural Alaska at all."



Mike Harper, Executive Director of RurAL CAP, is a former resident of Fairbanks and was also elected Saturday to the Doyon Limited Board of Directors. Doyon is the Interior Native Corporation and covers the greatest land area of the 12 Alaska corporations.

## Executive Director Asks Bill Passage

Mike Harper, Executive Director of RurAL CAP addressed the House Committee on Health and Social Services on March 7, 1974. Chairman of that Committee was Dr. Helen Beirne.

Harper's intentions were to introduce a very tentatively-drafted Bill that would be a supplemental authorization of \$800,000 for RurAL CAP to continue operation.

This would be a special appreciation by the Legislature to take affect in the event that Federal OEO support was withdrawn on June 30, 1974.

Harper also introduced a res-

olution which basically called for support for various Social Services-type contracts.

The testimony before the committee showed some well-informed advocates and Harper believes that there might be a good chance of a Bill coming from that Committee.

## Barrow's Success with Head Start



Beings! That's one of the reasons for the huge success of the Head Start program in Barrow, says Roger Mooney, Director of Child Development for RurAL CAP. Mooney visited the program with Mildred Jacobsson, the field trainer assigned to the Arctic Slope and the Interior, and was impressed with the Barrow Head Start Policy Council's efforts to support and expand the program.

By holding weekly bingo games, the group has managed to raise enough money to hire an additional aide and pay the transportation costs for Head Start children during the winter months.

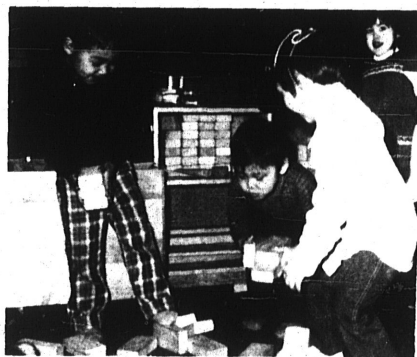
Mooney discussed with the Policy Council the possibility of

extending the pre-school year, using funds generated by bingo.

Mooney also had high praise for the well-equipped and furnished center. He was amazed, he said, at how quickly staff and parents had reorganized the center after the fire in Barrow last summer.

Mildred Jacobsson introduced new techniques and materials developed by Dr. Nancy Curtis at Alaska Methodist University. She led parents and staff in writing an educational plan for next year.

Dr. Curtis' books include stories based on life and legends in rural Alaska. Many of them were illustrated by famed Alaskan artist Robert Mayokok.



Barrow Head Start in the "Block Area."

Lucy Neakok, Teacher Director helps Head Start children wash up after a painting session.

## Bank Your Claims Check

Now that you have your land claims check, what are you planning to do with it? One suggestion RurAL CAP would like to

make is to place it in a savings bank. Savings and Loan Banks are now paying interest on savings accounts from 5.25% to 7.5% depending on what kind of account that you have.

The 5.25% is paid on regular accounts. This account allows you to deposit and withdraw your money simply by walking into the bank, and many banks will also do this by mail.

The higher interest rates are paid on savings certificates. Savings certificates require that you deposit a minimum amount of money and cannot withdraw it until the certificate expires. The lower interest paying certificates require a smaller deposit and have a shorter period of duration than the higher interest paying certificates. If you have to cash in a certificate before it expires, the bank is required by federal law to penalize you several months of interest and only pay you interest at the same rate as a regular, also called pass-book, account.

An Anchorage Savings and Loan Bank has computed that if you put \$600 in the bank each year and it earns interest at 5.25% compounded daily, at the end of 13 years your account will have \$11,453.08 in it.

These banks also offer trust accounts. You would use a trust account to deposit money for your children. The account is controlled by you until your children reach adulthood.

If you want more information, please contact a bank in your area. They will be glad to give you any information that you wish.

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