

Kotzebue Village Corp. to hire temporary leader

By STAN JONES

The primary election last August brought some good news and some bad news for Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation, the Kotzebue village corporation. The good news was that Al Adams, KIC's president, won the Democratic primary for the District 21 seat in the Alaska House of Representatives, and that, since there were no Republicans running, he was virtually certain to win the general election in November. The bad news was that Adams would therefore be away from Kotzebue and his duties at the head of the corporation for four to five months each year.

What to do about Adams' impending absence during the legislative session was resolved at the KIC board's October meeting, when it voted to hire a temporary president to man the helm

while Adams is in Juneau. A statewide recruiting effort is now under way to locate a suitable stand-in for Adams. Adams will continue in his present contract with the corporation.

In other business, the board took up the question of a lease agreement between KIC and Alaska Commercial Company for the Kotzebue Square Store. That lease allows KIC to evict Alaska Commercial and take over the store if it's not in the black after three years of operation. The three year deadline expires at the end of March, 1981, and the store has yet to show a profit. Negotiations are presently in progress, and it appears likely that ACC will be allowed to retain the store. In return, KIC may get a share of the store's gross receipts, as opposed to the 40% of profits which it is now entitled to.