ESKIMO LAWMAKER DIES—State Rep. John Westdahl of Holy Cross, died last Monday in the Kobuk Motel in Anchorage, apparently the victim of natural causes. On Feb. 6, during the preparations for the land claims hearings, Mr. Westdahl is talking with William Paul, Sr., left, and Alex Shadura, center.

—TUNDRA TIMES Photo

Gov. Appoints Paukan to Fill Seat Vacated by Westdahl's Death

State Democratic legislators expressed satisfaction and approval of the selection of Moses Paukan of St. Mary's to replace Rep. John Westdahl who died last Monday in Anchorage. Westdahl was also from St. Mary's.

Paukan was voted in to fill the vancancy yesterday by the Democratic minority in the State House of Representatives and the vote was unanimous.

"I think everybody is pleased," said Rep. Mike Bradner of Fairbanks. "The Governor accepted the people's suggestion and he handled it very courteously."

"We think he is a very good man for his area. I'm very pleased that the Governor chose to appoint him," said Rep. Jalmur Kerttula, Democratic minority leader in the House.

"I think he is a good appointment," said Rep. Willie Hensley. "He has

Moses Paukan

strong support from his area. He's been very active in the affairs of that region."

Moses Paukan is the nephew of the late John Westdahl. He is the president of the Association of Village Council Presidents, an organization with membership from Lower Yukon and Lower Kuskokwim. Paukan is also a merchant in his village of St. Mary's.

Mr. Westdahl died last Monday in an Anchorage motel apparently of natural causes.

Services in memory of Rep. Westdahl are being held in Anchorage today. Funeral services will be at St. Mary's early next week.

Moses Paukan is remaining at St. Mary's until after the funeral. He is expected to travel to Juneau soon after that and assume his duties in the legislature.