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RurAL-CAP ACTION REPORTS

KOYUKON ASKS USE OF TIMBER RESOURCE

Rural Affairs Commission

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Resources Development, have all been named to this Commission.

Donald Peter, Regional Director for the Upper Yukon Development Corporation, Harvey Samuelson, Chairman of the Bristol Bay Area Development Corporation, Robert Newlin, Chairman of the Kikiktugruk Area Community Development Corporation, Harry Carter, Treasurer of the RurAL CAP Board of directors and Al Ketzler, member of the RurAL CAP Board, have also been appointed to the Rural Affairs Commission.

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Mr. Armstrong further commented "I feel that by having this many people associated with RurAL CAP appointed to the

Rural Affairs Commission that Governor Egan had insured close cooperation between RurAL CAP and the State administration."

The first meeting of the new Rural Affairs Commission was held April 19, 20 and 21 in Juneau. Purpose of the Commission is to advise the Governor on his policy for rural Alaska.

Head Start Staffs Summer Training

As most Head Start programs will be closing in the next two to three weeks, plans are now being made for summer training of Head Start staffs which will take place in Anchorage at Alaska Methodist University.

Some staff members will attend pre-sessions at AMU beginning June 7. In addition, a cooks' workshop for college credit, will be taught in June.

Implimentation of Timber Requested for Coming Housing Prog.

The Koyukon Development Corporation Board of Directors meeting in Galena this week, passed a resolution requesting use of the Middle Yukon-Upper Kuskokwim timber resource in the implementation of the massive housing program presently being developed by the Alaska Federation of Natives and the Alaska State Housing Authority (ASHA).

The housing program was announced earlier this month by Senator Ted Stevens and would provide 1,200 units of housing plus water, sewer, roads and community facilities to approximately 20 villages in rural Alaska in the coming year.

This program could last as

long as five years and eventually serve as many as 100 villages.

The Koyukon Development Corporation has long been interested in the development of a timber industry in their region. Timber is the one major resource of the area and so far is virtually untapped in terms of providing jobs for this region.

Andy Demoski, Regional Director for the Koyukon Development Corporation said "Our people need jobs and the development of our timber resource is the best way to give them these jobs."

Jimmy Hunnington, newly elected chairman of the Koyukon Development Corporation said "Our people are willing to work, all they need is the opportunity."

ASHA is already spending a million dollars a year building housing and if they were to use their money to buy timber from our area, hundreds of people could be put to work."

The Koyukon Development Corporation is made up of representatives from the villages of: Huslia, Ruby, Galena, Allakaket, Anvik, Hughes, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Minto, Nenana, Nikolai, Shagetuk, Tanana and McGrath.

The Koyukon Development Corporation this week elected well known author and dog musher Jimmy Hunnington as the chairman of their corporation.

Hunnington replaces Jim Wilson, formerly of Grayling who is now working for RurAL CAP in Anchorage.

Hunnington represents the village of Huslia on the Koyukon Development Corporation.

In his opening remarks to the corporation he thanked the Board for the trust they had placed in him and stressed the importance of the Board working together to solve the problems presently facing their region.

Three Day Meeting—

Career Development

The RurAL CAP Statewide Career Development Committee held a three day meeting in Anchorage which began April 27th.

During the meeting, the committee reviewed the proposed Head Start Grant for 1971-1972, the Leadership Development Pro

gram proposal which begins June 1971 and Head Start Supplementary Training proposals for this summer and also for the program beginning in the fall of 1971.

In addition, the committee made specific recommendations on the Career Development Plan

of the Head Start proposal which will be incorporated in the grant.

Initial work was accomplished in writing a constitution for the Statewide Career Development Committee and a constitutional subcommittee was formed to write a draft constitution which will be presented at the next State meeting scheduled for August.

Those in attendance at the meeting included representatives from seven Head Start villages; Danny Norman, Regional Director of Supplementary Training Associates; George Irvin, Health, Education & Welfare Community Representative; Connie Smith, Assistant Regional Training Officer for the State of Alaska; and Norma White representing the RurAL CAP Statewide Parents Advisory Committee.

Representatives from the Fairbanks, Anchorage and Chugiak Head Start programs were also in attendance.

Child Development Head Satisfied

The Rural Alaska Child Development Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held a three day meeting in Anchorage April 14, 15 and 16. Purpose of the meeting was to train the PAC in all aspects of the Child Development programs administered by the Rural Alaska Community Action Program.

Items on the agenda included presentations on such topics as: Child Development Program as They relate to the CAP; Head

Start-Philosophy, Goals and Objectives; The Child from One to Five Years; Career Development; Why is Parent Involvement so Important; Parent-Child Center/Project Advisor's Role; PAC Constitution and By-Laws RurAL CAP Child Development Programs; Grant Application Pre-Review; Career Development; Career Development; and Curriculum.

An election of officers was also held. Mr. Lincoln Riley of

Mekoryuk was elected Chairman, Jenny Lindoff of Hoonah, Vice-Chairman and Norma White of Copper Center, Secretary.

Mrs. Betty Scaman, RurAL CAP Child Development Director commenting on the meeting stated "This was one of the best meetings I have ever attended. The PAC members really worked hard."

The majority of them were parents of Head Start children and it was truly a representative PAC."

Planned Development Now: Begich

Alaska Congressman Nick Begich called for an immediate beginning on a program of planned development to end unemployment and the severe economic conditions existing throughout the state.

The Congressman, who is in Washington, D.C. recovering from a brief illness, had his strong statement read into the record of the U.S. Senate Economic Development sub-committee hearings in Anchorage.

Congressman Begich's statement revealed that the statewide Carpenters Union reported that of its 1,865 members only 250 were employed as carpenters, and 704 were out of work.

Similar statistics, based on numerous conversations and correspondence with labor leaders across the state, were cited for other construction trades.

Begich also said that the figures are only an indicator of the proportionately worse unemployment among Alaskan Natives.

Alaska's lone Congressman said that economic development is one of the major solutions to the crisis.

"Any project", he continued; "must avoid an economic boom configuration and the seasonal unemployment that plagues all Alaskan employment."

He noted that development must focus on human resources and community growth, rather than impressive, but one-shot projects.

Begich's statement concluded by pointing out that individual Alaskans have always been willing to do their share for community development and cited past examples of such action.

Indian Health Service Hands Calif. Indians Health Prog. Administration

A Federal contract to permit California Indians to administer their own health program was signed recently (Monday, April 19) in Washington, it was announced by Dr. Emery A. Johnson, Assistant Surgeon General, and Director, Indian Health Service.

Signers of the agreement were H. D. Timm Williams, Chairman of the California Rural Indian Health Board who also is Indian Advisor to Governor Ronald Reagan, and Julius J. Kessler, Director, Office of Procurement and Materiel Management, of the Health Services and Mental Health Administration U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, parent organi-

zation of the Indian Health Service.

"This contract culminates three years preparation," Dr. Johnson stated, "and is a

two-day landmark - to Governmental commitment to Indians; and to Indian determination to assume greater responsibility for their own affairs."

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