

RurAL CAP REQUESTS 1971 OEO REFUNDING

AVCP Res. Endorsed By Agency

Three resolutions which were submitted by the Association of Village Council Presidents were unanimously endorsed by the Rural Alaska Community Action Program Board of Directors.

They included: a request to the State of Alaska to establish a regional high school at St. Mary's; a request to the President of the United States and the members of Alaska's congressional delegation to establish funding for a 30 bed hospital at St. Mary's; and a request to Alaska Legal Services to find ways and means to continue the personal services of a qualified lawyer to be stationed in the Bethel area.

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CORP. BOARD—The Rural Alaska Community Action Program with headquarters in Anchorage, Alaska, has nine regional development corporations in rural areas of Alaska. OEO-funded through RurAL-CAP, the corporations have regional area natives as officials. Shown is the Kikikugruk Area-Community Development Corporation board of directors meeting at Kotzebue. The meeting is being chaired by Robert Newlin, facing the camera, left, along with corresponding secretary, Elmer Armstrong. Other board members were not identified.

Edgecumbe Proposal

A youth development proposal, submitted by the student body of Mount Edgecumbe High School was recently approved for funding by the Rural Alaska Community Action Program Board of Directors at their October 28 and 29 Board meeting.

Anthony Philimonof, representative for the Mount Edgecumbe High School student body on the RurAL CAP Board, presented the proposal which calls for such program objectives as:

- Leadership training; Native language courses;
- Becoming more knowledgeable with regard to the land claims issue, Alaska Federation of Natives and other Native organizations by inviting Native leaders to speak;
- Attending organization meetings and conventions, studying the constitution and by-laws of these organizations and by joining the AFN.

The program has been funded in the amount of \$6,700 and a Director, Assistant Director and Secretary will be employed to carry out the program operations.

It is intended that the Direc-

tor will receive training during the summer months in the central office of RurAL CAP.



PUSH FOR ALLOTMENTS—The RurAL CAP personnel in Anchorage has been working hard to help push for native land allotments recently. Perhaps Tom Potter, comptroller of the RurAL CAP in Anchorage, went a little further than most of his fellow workers when he painted a sign, "Push for Native Allotments," on the back of his car.

Funds Asked for Legal Services, Child Centers, Youth Opportunity, Etc.

The Rural Alaska Community Action Program Board of Directors, meeting in Anchorage October 28 and 29 approved and sent to the Office of Economic Opportunity a 1971 refunding request totalling some one and a half million dollars.

Included in the refunding package are \$469,000 for the Alaska Legal Services program, \$175,000 for Parent-Child Centers in Hoonah and Kotzebue, \$6,700 for a Youth Opportunity Program at Mt. Edgecumbe high school, \$92,000 for housing assistance in Bethel and Nome, \$59,700 for emergency food and medical services, and \$775,000 for community organization and program administration.

The \$755,000 for community organization and program administration is divided among nine regional development corporations and the central admin-

istration of RurAL CAP according to Byron Mallott, Executive Director of RurAL CAP.

The Rural Alaska Community Action Program with main offices in Anchorage, also administers 38 Head Start programs and a village surplus equipment program in rural Alaska.

RurAL CAP, established in 1965, is one of the largest community action programs in the nation, with boundaries encompassing the entire state with the exception of Greater Anchorage Borough and an annual budget exceeding two million dollars.

Armstrong Succeeds Marlene Johnson

Election of new officers for the Rural Alaska Community Action Program Board of Directors was held at their annual meeting, October 28 and 29 in Anchorage.

Elmer Armstrong of Kotzebue replaced Marlene Johnson of Hoonah, as President who held the office for the past three years. Mrs. Johnson was ineligible for re-election according to the agency's by-laws that sets the maximum term at three years.

Armstrong, an active participant in Office of Economic Opportunity programs, has served on the Board of Directors for the Community Enterprise Development Corporation and is also an officer on the Kikikugruk Area Community Development Corporation, a program of RurAL CAP.

Other officers elected were Hank Ostrosky of Naknek, as Vice-President and Harry Carter of Kodiak, as Secretary-Treasurer.

The Board of Directors has scheduled their next regular meeting for February to be held in Juneau.

Homes, Vital Program for Outlying Villages

A little published, but extremely vital program benefiting Alaska's villagers is being carried out under the remote housing program. To date it is providing 335 new homes to families in 18 Alaska villages.

Federal funding for the program is not budgeted for the coming year, and the state has taken steps to assure the continuation of the program by giving the voters an opportunity to vote on a three million dollar bond issue to be used for remote housing. Mr. Robert Schenker, executive director of the Alaska State Housing Authority—the agency responsible for the administration of the program, said last week that the housing conditions in the villages of our state are among the worst in

the world, and no money spent by the State of Alaska could possibly find better use than to provide decent, safe, sanitary homes for our people.

The program provides a combination of grant and loan to the villagers, and each home

owner participates in a mutual help program to construct the homes.

The average cost for materials, transportation, and supervisory help in constructing the homes is \$64,000.

The ability of the villagers to

build their own homes and to take advantage of the opportunity has been an extremely rewarding experience, according to Schenker, and demonstrates again "the determination of our people when opportunities are presented to them."

CLASSIFIED

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