

RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS

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Remainder of legislative Priorities

Hundred pieces in Legislative process

(Due to press of time and swift succession of holidays, Tundra Times was not able to publish the continuation of bills RurAL CAP considered priorities. Sorry for the inconvenience.)

House Bill 465, a special appropriations bill to establish a center for vocational educational teacher training, was given a high priority. And, after lengthy discussion, House Bill 143, an act to review the claims made by educational outlets, was given a high priority.

Fish and Game

CPC fish and game committee members, led by Harold Sparks, gave a high priority to House Bill 159 and companion bill HB 160, requiring edible meat to be transported with raw antlers out of a game management unit. The committee recommended that seasonal positions be established to allow villagers to assist Fish and Game Protection Officers in the enforcement of this bill and an appropriation to the Department of Public Safety be made for this purpose.

House Bill 370, which would create a special Fish and Game prosecutor, was given a high priority with the suggested amendment that paralegal positions be funded to assist district attorneys to prepare cases.

A special appropriations bill to the department of Public Safety to fund additional wildlife protection officers was given a strong endorsement by the CPC fish and game committee. Also a strong do pass recommendation was given to Senate Bill 420, a provision which would require violators of the state's wanton waste law to also forfeit their hunting license for five years in addition to the current fine of \$500 and maximum imprisonment for six months.

A no pass recommendation, however, was made for a bill to lift for one year the licenses of those who violate other hunting rules, as was a bill establishing trophy hunting tags.

The fish and game committee recommended that legislation be drafted to include a special provision under guide licensing to permit village residents easier access into guiding service in localities in proximity to their community.

Transportation and Communications

CPC delegates recommended that the legislature and the administration strongly urge the Civil Aeronautics Board to complete the Alaska Service hearings because of a further deterioration of air service to bush communities.

Also the committee recommended that the Department of Transportation be created to expedite and coordinate transportation planning in the state, to improve responsiveness to rural communities and the department should establish regional offices and regional advisory committees.

The transportation and

communications committee endorsed Senate Bill 398 which provides for the transfer of responsibility for public works, transportation corridors and school construction from the state to a local government subdivision.

The committee endorsed federal (and future state) legislation providing funding for community transportation services such as buses in rural communities.

On communications matters the committee agreed that most of the pending communications bills deal with proposed management structures such as the tele-communications department or telecommunications authority. The communications committee did not feel that this is a decision that is necessary at present. It might be better to see what future course of action the state needs to take in communications before setting the management vehicle.

The communications committee endorsed the new advisory committee being set up to provide policy input into site selection, rates, standards for equipment, etc. to the Office of Telecommunications. The committee felt it necessary for the state to provide travel and per diem costs required to fund this committee as an active advisory group.

Local Government

Led by Phil Smith, executive director of RurAL CAP, the local government committee gave a high priority to Senate Bill 136, an act creating a local government commission.

The committee also recommended passage for Senate Bill 464, a special appropriations to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs for development projects in the Bristol Bay Region.

Procedural changes in the manner that municipalities are audited was given a high priority by the local government committee with their endorsement of SB 259. And Senate Bill 184, an act providing for a natural disaster tax, received a high priority with the suggestion that the \$20 tax come out of the June rather than the January paycheck.

The committee recommended that the legislature change the state revenue sharing program to a block grant approach similar to that presented in SB 260.

A recommendation that the legislature should create a permanent mechanism to handle disasters in Alaska was given a strong vote. The committee suggested a permanent disaster fund administered through the Department of Commerce and Economic Development with a

citizens review board established to make recommendations as to appropriate action.

Health and Social Services

CPC health and social service committee members, led by Ray Burt and Claude Demientieff, gave a strong recommendation for House Bill 181 creating a Health and Social Services Advisory Board. However, the committee recommend that the board be regionalized to coincide with the three health service area now established.

The committee gave a high priority to House Bill 244, an act relating to evaluation and planning in the Department of Health and Social Services, with the recommendation that a maximum of ¼ of 1% of the annual budget of the department be used for evaluation.

High priorities were also given to HB 530, an act relating to statewide coordination of health services and SB 219, an act relating to assistance to the aged, blind and disabled.

Senate Bill 201, an act relating to the elimination of architectural barriers in public buildings and facilities for handicapped, aged or infirmed persons, was given a high priority with the suggested amendment that the period of

JOM/BRHS program On Cultural Heritage

The JOM Program consists of the Bethel Regional High School Cultural Heritage Program, St. Mary's Career Awareness and Motivational Program, Bethel Middle School and Bethel Primary Programs.

There are 175 students in the Bethel Regional Dormitory, with an additional 176 in the Boarding Home Program. The Manpower Program has close to \$1 million in funds.

There are several cluster training programs at the Kuskokwim Community College. They leased the BNC Hotel and have placed 69 students in it, with an additional 47 in the boarding homes.

Presently are involved in the Public Service Program in the identifying and training of 14 village administrators who will devote full time to performing the duties and responsibilities of their office and the village council.

Presently planning and revising a model plan of service for their region. This involves curricula and apprising villagers of how

then can modify the curriculum funds for administration.

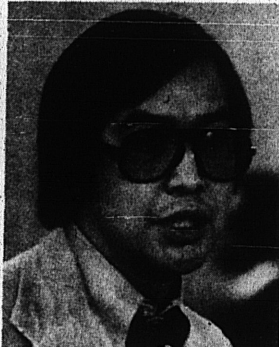
Another effort is the old age home. The senior citizens are not cared for as was done traditionally, and they are being taken to homes and communities completely foreign to them.

It was felt that the agencies need to work together on this. Yupiktak Bista is presently looking into the possible consolidation of the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation with Yupiktak Bista.

Other expansion includes that of special education to include the handicapped. Possible grants and funds for a fish hatchery in the Upper Kuskokwim area is being looked into. Mr. Gregory discussed the ACVP Charter on Subsistence (copy is attached).

The Bethel area is in a severe crisis because of the recent fire which destroyed their generation capability. Homes are frozen up, as well as food, etc. An application may be made for emergency funds in the very near future.

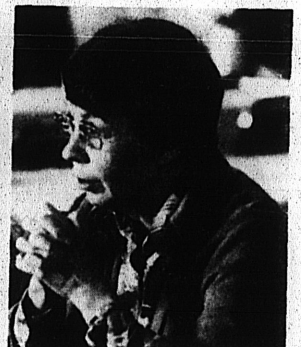
time in which renovation of existing facilities be completed be shortened from 10 to five years.



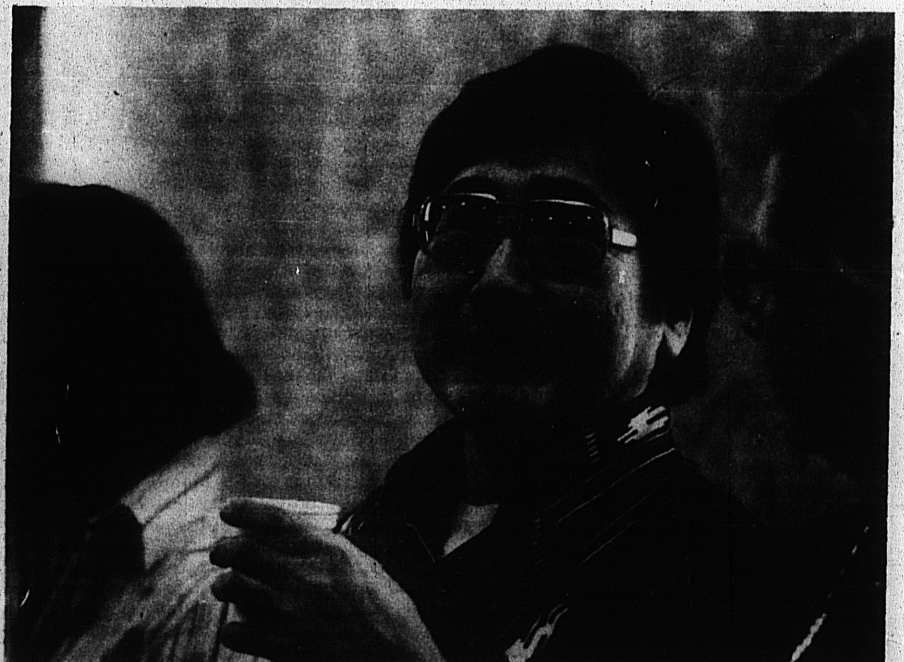
GORDON JACKSON



MARGIE GUINN



SEN. KAY POLAND



OSKAR KAWAGLEY, executive director of Yupikta Bista, smiles over a cup of coffee after making a point during the education committee session.