

RurALCAP's ACTION REPORTS

RurALCAP



Partners for Progress
with Alaska's Communities

The weekly newsletter of the NON-PROFIT, PRIVATE CORPORATION
which serves rural Alaska in the battle against poverty in our state.

An information and education function of Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.



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Bristol Bay Lists Priorities, Development Board Enlarged

The newly-formed Bristol Bay Area Development Corporation held a meeting in Dillingham May 5-6 to set regional priorities and to amend the articles of incorporation to include the communities that are not represented on the regional board.

Presently, the temporary board of fifteen members is functioning, but all the villages of the area are not represented. There will be an election of permanent board members at the next board meeting. One member may represent two or more villages because the board cannot be larger than the fifteen members. Thus all villages will be represented.

The short-term priorities set for the region are: (1) cold storage tanks for Dillingham; (2) electricity for a - - Togiak, b - - Egwak/New Stuyahok/Koliganek, c - - Clarks Point, d - - Ekuk/Egegik, and e - - Manokotak; (3) cold storage tanks, Togiak; (4) drainage pipes and

access road, New Stuyahok and (5) garbage disposal.

The long-term priorities are: (1) water and sewage; (2) airports and equipment for maintenance; (3) marine ways; (4) land claims settlement; (5) housing and improvement; (6) community hall with clinics; and (7) combination of all other needs.

Guests present at the meeting were: Joe McGill from the State House of Representatives; Phil Burns, Alaska Legal Services; Frank Pommersheim, VISTA; and Henry Shane, Dillingham City Manager.

Members attending were: Mike Toyukok and Nels C. Franklin of Manokotak; William P. Coopchiak, Jack Hayexikok, Robert T. Blue and Michael Gloko of Togiak; Harold Samuelson and Jackie Knutson of Dillingham; Joseph L. Clark of Clarks Point; William Nelson of Egwak; and Joseph Chythlook of Aleknagik.

Nixon Proposes Anti-Hunger Plan

President Nixon has proposed a government food program intended to help eliminate hunger in the United States and expected to eventually cost more than \$1 billion a year.

The President made the announcement last week. Both congressional and other public officials have been putting pressure on the new administration to increase anti-hunger programs.

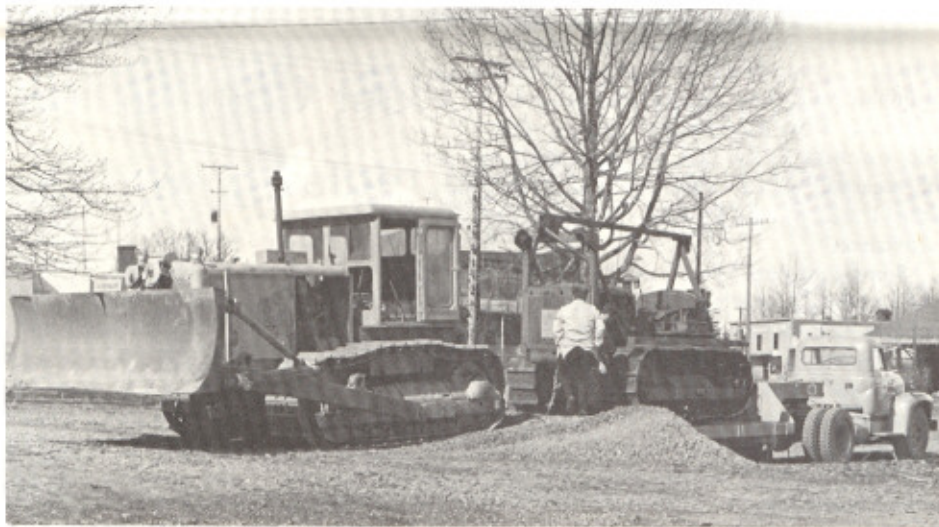
The proposal calls for the new effort to begin in 1970, but the President said only \$270 million could go to the program that year. The following year, new programs would increase federal food outlays from \$1.5 billion to \$2.5 billion annually.

Much of the program would involve enlarging on the food stamp program. The President proposed that each family eligible for food stamps should get enough stamps to provide a nutritionally complete diet according to Dept. of Agriculture standards.

Poor families are now able to buy stamps and spend them for more than face value on groceries, but often the stamps still do not add up to enough to provide a good diet. Nixon also proposes to offer the stamps free to those persons who earn less than \$30 a month.

President Nixon also recommends that counties be able to participate in both food stamp and direct food distribution programs. Under the current system, counties must choose one or the other. The President said such a policy would also give more leeway in meeting emergency needs.

To stop hunger problems at its earliest stages, President Nixon has recommended issuing vouchers for infant formulas and other high-nutrition foods to prevent malnutrition during pregnancy and early infancy.



Tom Echols, RurALCAP deputy director, looks over two caterpillars which had just been taken off the ship Lindenwood Victory in Seward May 8. The caterpillars - - and 19 other pieces of heavy equipment which came in on the ship - - will be used in Alaska villages. See other photos on page three.



Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

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Trainees Continue With More Classes

Regional board chairmen, regional center directors and area community developers of Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurALCAP) will soon begin their next session of in-service training.

The training sessions are slated to begin May 19 and continue through May 24 held simultaneously in Anchorage and Kotzebue. (It was formerly slated for Nome rather than Kotzebue.)

The training session will be instructed by: Frank Peterson/Jim Mott on community involvement, village administration and regional board meetings; a Bureau of Indian Affairs sanitary engineer will instruct on village hygiene; Frank Peterson on Community Service Corps workshop; Emil Notti on Alaska Federation of Natives and Alaska Native Brotherhood (Arctic); and Chuck Harrison will instruct on leadership, human relations, and planning and project management.

Chuck Harrison will complete the sessions with a summary of evaluation on the training.

In a former training session held April 14-25 in both Anchorage and Nome, motivation, performance, organization and leadership of supervisory were taught. Also, the guidelines of the Office of Economic Opportunity and RurALCAP along with the policies of RurALCAP were taught to aide these people in becoming familiar with their fight against poverty.

Plant Construction Creates New Jobs

Robert Podesta, assistant secretary of commerce for Economical Development, has announced approval of a \$448,000 grant and a \$97,000 loan to help boost employment and incomes in Metlakatla on Annette Island.

The funds, requested by the community, comes from the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. The money will be used to help build a cold storage facility and a fish-processing plant expected to create 12 jobs in the plant itself and another 25 on fishing boats.

AMU Gets Grant

The Office of Economic Opportunity has awarded a \$121,770 grant to Alaska Methodist University in Anchorage to operate an "Upward Bound" program this summer.

The program will involve some 60 students selected from the 10th and 11th grades who will participate in an eight-week pre-college preparatory session. Individualized tutoring will be available.

"Upward Bound" is designed to encourage children of low-income families to continue their education.

Teenagers are selected from various parts of the state and brought to the university, where they become acquainted with dormitory living and college social life, as well as studies.

During last summer's program at AMU students also spent one day visiting and participating in local government offices.



Allen John, newest RurALCAP board member, was elected by his student body to represent the BIA Mt. Edgecumbe High School. He is the first youth representative on the board.

Supreme Court Alters Welfare Law

Needy people that have migrated to another state will now receive welfare benefits upon entering without a year's waiting period.

The U.S. Supreme Court has sent down a ruling that it is "constitutionally impermissible" for a state to enforce a waiting period for the "purpose of inhibiting migration by needy persons into the state."

This Supreme Court decision came about due to the efforts Archibald Cox, former Solicitor General of the United States, who argued three welfare test cases from Pennsylvania, Connecticut and the District of Columbia.

The three cases were part of a nationwide legal campaign on behalf of welfare recipients sponsored by the Office of Economic Opportunity's Legal Service Program.

There are some 41 states that will be affected by this ruling. Justice William Brennan said, "We do not perceive why a mother who is seeking to make a new life for herself and her children should be regarded as less deserving because she considers . . . the level of state's public assistance."

Some indigents have formally left one state going to another that has a higher welfare benefit in order to seek a new life. These people had been forced to wait a full year before receiving any benefits from that state welfare. This has now been abolished. They can now apply upon entering and start receiving benefits almost immediately.

Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Robert Finch told newsmen the impact would have a major impact on state and Federal budgets.

President Nixon Will Heighten Nation's War Against Hunger

Editor's note: The following editorial has been reprinted from the May 9 edition of the New York Times. See related article on page one.

President Nixon's statement on hunger represents his most forthright social commitment so far. He has told Congress that "there can be no doubt that hunger and malnutrition exist in America and that some millions may be affected." He adds that "the moment is at hand to put an end" to that hunger.

Although the President's program is a delayed-action effort still short of funds - a critical deficiency - it does embrace several desperately needed reforms in existing food programs and the launching of a valuable new program for pregnant mothers and infants who are especially susceptible to nutritional diseases that can cause permanent physical and mental damage. It would make the two major food programs, the food stamp program and commodity program, simultaneously available in localities where they are now mutually exclusive.

It would also require localities that do not now offer any program at all to set up one. The administration hopes eventually to replace the food stamps with cash and to make the food program part of a generally reformed welfare structure.

The major flaw in the program is that it gets under way too slowly. It will add

\$1 billion a year to the present \$1.5 billion total food effort, but this increase will not take effect until fiscal 1971. The President intends to add only \$270 million in the last half of fiscal 1970 transferring this amount from other, as yet unspecified, programs.

Even when the full amount becomes available it will not meet the need. It will not pay for the program changes the President has said he will initiate, such as making food stamps available free to the very poor and increasing the bonus value of stamps to assure that every family has a minimally adequate diet.

Congress must recognize, even if the President doesn't, that there can be no excuse for delay. Those suffering from hunger today will receive little comfort in knowing that food may be available next year. The disgraceful paradox of hunger in a land fat with agricultural surpluses requires immediate correction.

RurALCAP's ACTION REPORTS welcomes news items and reports on Community problems, special projects and progress in all parts of rural Alaska where the war against poverty is being waged. Community workers are urged to send reports on any items of interest to this paper at the address listed on page four.

ASHA Plans Survey Of Kotzebue Economy

The Alaska State Housing Authority is expected to begin work this summer on a comprehensive plan showing growth potential in the city of Kotzebue.

The Kotzebue City Council requested ASHA to make the surveys and plans after it learned the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development requires such a plan before it will consider providing funds for a community.

The plan will include a study of the economy of Kotzebue, including a review of possible industry in the region and the effect it would have on employment. Population increases will be forecast and a map will be prepared recommending locations of future improvements.

Frank Ferguson, RurALCAP regional director in Kotzebue, said ASHA planners are expected to interview every Kotzebue family this summer to collect information on the number and ages of people, the amount and quality of housing, incomes and employment. He said planners will meet with city officials several times to discuss recommendations.

The completed plan will be in the City Building and available to the public, Ferguson said.

Some 2,000 people in Anchorage marched 31 miles May 10 to raise money for the starving children of Biafra.



Larry Brayton, left, RurALCAP executive director, and Tim Smith, director of the Surplus Acquisition Program, stood on the Seward dock May 8 and watched workmen unload heavy equipment for Alaska's villages. The photo on the right shows the road grader being lifted from the ship's hold. All 21 pieces of equipment came from the Agency for International Development in Japan. A two-week program for villagers who will be operating the equipment began this week in Seward under auspices of the Office of Education.

200 Students Can Now Stay Home

Relocatable classrooms expected to be built in Barrow and Kotzebue this summer will allow 200 more students to stay close to home for schooling, according to an announcement from Sen. Mike Gravel.

Sen. Gravel wired news of the step-up in construction plans to Frank Ferguson, RurALCAP regional director in Kotzebue.

Sen. Gravel said the Bureau of Indian Affairs reconsidered at his request its decision to delay construction of the relocatable classrooms in Barrow and Kotzebue until the summer of 1970. The classrooms are now expected to be ready for occupancy this fall.

Gravel said in his letter, "The opening of these classrooms in Barrow and Kotzebue are the first tangible results of my

long fight for the regional high school program and I am delighted that 80 students will not have to leave Kotzebue and 120 will not have to leave Barrow next fall."

Charles Zellers, assistant commissioner for education, had notified Gravel that the sailing date of the ship North Star had been delayed to permit materials for the classrooms to be loaded.

The Governor's Office has announced the program will cost \$596,000 for the Kotzebue and Barrow classrooms.

Three other regions are receiving funds for dormitories. Sitka will receive \$2,830,000 with a 200 student capacity; Bethel \$3,404,000 with a 200 student capacity expandible; and Fairbanks \$2,752,000 with a 200 student capacity expandible.

Investigator-Aide Position Open

The Alaska Legal Services Corp. is now taking applications for an investigator-community aide for the Bethel area.

The person holding this position will be responsible for investigating civil and possibly criminal matters, including the location and interviewing of witnesses, obtaining and preserving physical evidence, and uncovering background information about clients.

He will participate in the community education program, including the distribution of literature, the soliciting of information for legal need surveys and surveys to determine the effectiveness of community education program techniques. He may also conduct preliminary interviews with applicants for legal services and perform liaison functions between the full-time law offices and outlying areas to be served.

The position becomes available June 1 and has an open salary, depending upon experience and qualifications. The investigator-community aide is not required to have any specific formal training, but is expected to have experience and potential indicating he can perform such duties mentioned above. A demonstrated ability to communicate with native Alaskan persons is considered important.

Those interested in the position should apply at once to Margaret Nick, Bethel, or to William Jacobs, executive director, Alaska Legal Services Corp., 425 G Street, Suite 630, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501.

KANA Elects New Board, Officers

A smorgasbord supper and a dance highlighted the evening following the annual meeting of the Kodiak Area Native Association on May 10 at the Kodiak Elks Hall.

Harry Carter, re-elected president of the association which he helped to organize, recently returned from Washington, D.C. where he testified before Congressional Committees during the Native Land Claims Bill Conference.

Other officers elected were Ed Naughton as their vice-president; and Dolores Padilla, also re-elected, secretary-treasurer. Six members elected to the KANA Board of Directors were: Kodiak Mayor Pete Resoff, Eunice Neseth, Helena Schwiete, Ben Gregoroff, Roy Madsen and Karl Armstrong.

Members relinquishing their seats on the board were: Freda Reft, Mary Galigher, Tina Monigold, Ted Valanis and Eli Metrokin.

Carter said each of the villages in the Kodiak area are establishing interim camps. This method entitles each village to a seat on the board and will increase board membership from nine to fifteen members.

The board approved a month-to-month dues purchase system so all villages could afford representation. The system allows them to set up charters and elect their representatives.

Topics discussed during the meeting were a review of last year's activities, consideration of constitutional amendments and a review of current activities.

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