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George Sparks

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Dear Warner talked about a seminar to be held at the University of Alaska dealing with alcoholism problems and procedures dealing with the alcoholism problems. George Sparks is the conference chairman.

George Sparks said this is a series of regional seminars to be held throughout the state by the Alaska Office of Alcoholism. They are primarily concerned about making the community aware of their alcohol problems and try to help the community to mobilize their resources and begin services to deal with the problem. Most people are aware of the problems in Fairbanks and the northern region. It is a regional seminar and they are concerned about drinking problems in the bush areas of the northern part of the state. They are specifically involving Fort Yukon in the planning. They have had a planning group for several months.

Dean Warner asked how they are dealing with alcoholism at present. George said the best thing they can say is they are dealing with it on a hit and miss basis. It is well known that alcohol consumption in Alaska is one the highest in the nation. Up until now services have not been developed in the way of services that spring from this. What has been happening for the most part mainly have been due to the efforts of a few dedicated individuals and organizations. There is not comprehensive approach to the problem.

Dean Warner asked about practical ideas gained from this seminar. George said that one of the main things they want from the seminar is some real practical ideas for mobilizing community efforts to mobilize services to deal with the problem. Dr. Moss and Dr. Pitman have worked in rural and urban environments.