

Grant for Health Information

JUNEAU— Conditional approval of a \$31,478 grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, to establish a health information system in Alaska has been received, Gov. Walter J. Hickel said.

Confirmation of the approval came from Dr. R. Leslie Smith, regional health officer for the U.S. Public Health Service in San Francisco.

Total cost of the system will be \$75,000. It will be used by the Alaska Department of Health and Welfare to catalogue statewide statistics for such diseases as cancer and tuberculosis, along with a wide variety of other human diseases and disabilities.

Health and Welfare Commissioner J. Scott McDonald told the Governor the grant approval is conditional because it hinges on a requirement that the funds must be formally obligated prior to the end of the fiscal year.

In addition, federal officials must meet in Alaska with state representatives to discuss details on the program.

The conditional approval was given at this time, McDonald said, so the state could proceed with obligating its share of the funds prior to the end of the fiscal year.