

# Pt. Hope to Be Connected to Phone Circuit Via Cape Lisburne

Some of the 10 men who lost their lives in the recent crash of an Air Force transport 39 miles from Point Hope might have been saved had there been adequate communication from the village itself, according to Dan Lisbourne, Mayor of Point Hope.

Lisbourne wrote to Sen. E.L. (Bob) Bartlett citing the need for improved communications, with a telephone circuit, for the village.

Bartlett, in Washington, announced this week that the Alaska Communication Sys-

tem will be putting a phone circuit into Point Hope.

Bartlett commented on the need for such phones in remote villages to enable calls, especially in emergencies, to other parts of Alaska.

Lisbourne, writing to Bartlett, said: "Less than three weeks ago a man from our village had a hunting accident and needed medical attention immediately. It took us 16 hours by radio to get an airplane here to rush him to Anchorage."

"On the 16th of July," Lis-

bourne wrote, "a large Air Force plane went down 39 miles from Point Hope. Our National Guardsmen were alerted, but much too late due to the lack of communication. As a result, 10 men lost their lives. We may have been able to help if communication was better."

In response to a request from Bartlett, the Air Force has assured him that a single telephone service to the village on a public or semi-public toll station basis will

(Continued on Page 8)

# Pt. Hope Phone

(Continued from Page 1)

be in place early in the 1967 construction season.

"The Alaska Communications System can provide Point Hope with a phone link to the Cape Lisbourne station. It is just a situation of a race with weather conditions which we are unable to overcome until next summer," Colonel A. V. Smith, ACS Commander, told Bartlett.