

## COOPERATION BETWEEN AGENCIES IS ESSENTIAL

Up to 100 high school age students in southwestern Alaska rural villages, turned away from the BIA's crowded Mt. Edgecumbe High School, could be attending classes this fall if fast action is taken.

Last year, according to reliable information, there was room in the Dillingham High School for 100 more students. No drastic increase in the enrollment there is foreseen for this year. One-hundred youngsters from outlying villages could be in the Dillingham school if there were someplace for them to live in that Bristol Bay city. Foster homes are out of the question. Only two possible homes were found there after a citizen's committee in that community looked into the matter.

Last year the Holy Rosary Mission in Dillingham closed down.

Before the shutdown, smaller children were boarded and housed at the Mission, going to school in state school there.

Now the buildings are vacant. They could easily be used for housing high-school age youths. All that would be needed would be a little cooperation between the Catholic Church, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the State Department of Education.

The BIA is reportedly balking at the proposition, citing a "fire hazard" in the Mission's buildings as a reason. Local pushers of the project point out that if the church felt the buildings were good enough for small children, why wouldn't they be safe for older youths?

With hundreds of rural young people each year denied a high school education because of the lack of school facilities, the Tundra Times feels every effort should be made to accommodate those few who can be taken in—wherever possible.