

\$426,000 to Build Facilities For St. Mary's

Approval of \$426,000 in grants and loans to build a dock, cold-storage facility and a community building to open up new jobs and boost incomes in the Wade Hampton District of Alaska was announced by the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

The Village of St. Mary's was the applicant for the EDA assistance. St. Mary's is located on the north bank of the Andreafsky River, about six miles northeast of its confluence with the

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Yukon River in Western Alaska.

About 95 percent of the population of the area are Eskimos.

The Wade Hampton District in 1966 had an unemployment rate of 33.3 percent—the highest in the Nation.

The projects announced are basic to the long-range plans for boosting the standard of living in the area. Village officials stated in their application for EDA assistance.

The dock and cold-storage plant will be built with a \$254,000 EDA grant and a \$64,000 loan. The facility will be operated as a Village co-operative.

In addition to providing 12 jobs at the cold-storage plant, the project is expected to lengthen the fishing season for area fishermen and provide storage for frozen foods for the winter months.

Completion is expected in about six months after con-

struction starts.

An \$86,000 grant and a \$22,000 loan will finance the construction of the multi-purpose community building for St. Mary's.

The building will be used for adult education and vocational training classes, public meetings, recreational facilities, transient lodging and restaurant facilities. It will benefit primarily members of low-income families.

Completion of the community building is expected in about three months after construction starts.

Each loan is repayable in 25 years at an annual interest rate of 4¼ percent.

The Economic Development Administration was established under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to encourage industrial growth in lagging areas and to further the objectives of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.