

Spare job Centers

One of the ironic victims of the recent Ronald Reagan war on high government costs is the Job Service program in Alaska.

According to preliminary reports, some Job Service offices in rural Alaska will be shut down in the near future because of federal budget cuts. Job service acts as a job referral agency for job-seekers of all kinds, trained and untrained.

The irony of the shutdown is that Ronald Reagan is hoping that his decrease in government spending will induce the "private sector," mainly big business, to invest more heavily in industry expansion, thus creating jobs and which will create more taxes which will add more money to the government tax base.

In Alaska, the irony is that many of the people who need jobs live in areas where the jobs aren't. And they live in areas which are finding themselves cut off from the job market information because private employment agencies don't go because of low volume by private industry standards.

A frequent complaint about state jobs is that people in the Bush have to travel to the big population centers to find out if jobs are available in their areas. One such complaint often is made about jobs in the Fish and Game departments.

The phase-out of the Bush job service offices obviously will not help that situation.

State Sen. Frank Ferguson last year introduced a bill which would implement a job training program in the state. He gives that bill a good chance of passage. While the job service offices aren't specifically included in the senator's bill, perhaps they should be.