

Kuskokwim Area Villages Get Emergency Winter Gasoline

An emergency shipment of 300 barrels of gasoline is on its way to the villages of Toksook Bay, Tununak, Nightmute, Newtok, and Chefnak in the Alaska Kuskokwim River Delta, according to U.S. Senator Mike Gravel.

A plea from Toksook Bay residents who feared that the delta residents would be unable to fuel their snow machines for the winter months sparked the effort to obtain gasoline, Senator Gravel said.

The residents wrote to Senator Gravel, "During the winter months we use snow machines for subsistence. . . and we burn more gas on them because we have to go over 40 miles to get food from the tundra. . ."

Senator Gravel said the normal procedure was for villagers to purchase gas during the summer months for use during the winter.

The cost of a 55 gallon drum

in the area is \$45. The Alaska Native Industries Cooperative Association usually orders a winter supply but failed to note the increase in demand.

"There is no winter delivery, except air freight, to the Kuskokwim area," Senator Gravel said.

At Senator Gravel's request, the Cooperative Association pur-

chased an additional supply. Senator Gravel said special arrangements were made to ship fuel on an Alaska Steamship Company vessel and that it would arrive at Tununak before winter set in.

Among the purposes of a society should be to try to arrange for a continuous supply of work at all times and seasons.

—POPE LEO XIII

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