

Mental Health Institute Offered Funds

The National Institute of Mental Health has offered the State \$5,000 to finance an Alaska Conference on Alcoholism, and a committee is now being organized to plan for the conference.

The planning group will consist of representatives of the State judiciary, law enforcement agencies, Alcoholics Anonymous, social agencies, labor organizations, church groups, the liquor industry, Chambers of Commerce, women's clubs, service clubs and community action groups.

Charles W. Pfeiffer, director of the Youth and Adult Authority, has been designated chairman of the planning committee by Dr. Levi Browning, commissioner of Health and Welfare.

A recent mental health study indicated that alcoholism is a major problem in Alaska. Objective of the conference would be to develop a Statewide program for the rehabilitation of alcoholics and to provide information on the dangers of alcohol.

At a special meeting of the Gastineau Council on Alcoholism held on Feb. 16 in the Juneau office of the YAA, Ray Craig of the National Institute of Mental Health announced his agency would be willing to finance the conference.

He said \$5,000 would be offered but up to \$8,000 would be available for such a conference.