

Senator Hensley Discusses Schools In Washington

Senator Willie Hensley of Kotzebue just returned from Washington, D.C. during which time he met with various government officials concerning school construction by the BIA in Barrow, Kotzebue and the Kobuk Valley.

He reports that the BIA now has planning funds for Barrow and they hope to get appropriations to begin high school construction by 1973.

Senator Hensley and Director of Regional Schools and Boarding Home Program, Jim Harper, met with Jim Hawkins, BIA education chief, and members of

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Sen. Hensley...

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Alaska's congressional delegation

The BIA was urged to work closely with the State and communities in advance of actual construction in order to make sure that the needs of the people are incorporated into the design and eventual curriculum content.

Mr. Hawkins agreed to travel to Kotzebue in late October to participate in a meeting of the Kotzebue, Barrow and Kobuk area school officials and school members.

The purpose of the meeting will be to describe the plans of the state and the BIA in future school (secondary) construction and methods by which the communities will be involved.

A plea was made by Senator Hensley and Harper for the creation of a Director of Native Education who would oversee the spending of Johnson O'Malley funds—which are appropriated specially for Native students.

A request was also made for the BIA to find a means by which 9th and 10th graders at Edgecumbe could get home for Christmas. It was noted that being away from home was a serious strain for many children who are apart from their parents for the first time.

Senator Hensley also met with Senator Ted Stevens and Indian Health Service director Dr. Emery Johnson concerning the water and sewer projects of the PHS.

Hensley complained about the waste of public funds due to poor engineering by the PHS. He explained that the Kotzebue water and sewer project was repeatedly dug up and replaced causing subsidence of the soil in the entire community.

Senator Stevens and Dr. Johnson agreed to visit Kotzebue and other sites to review water and sewer projects before January.