

# SEACAP CONTRACTS FOR SUMMER DAY CARE

## Program Set Up for Working Mothers' Tots

The Southeastern Alaska Community Action Program contracted last week with the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Child and Family Services to provide comprehensive child care services in seven southeastern communities.

Using title IV-A funds administered by the Division of Child and Family Services and local matching money, SEACAP will establish summer day care programs for the children of working mothers in the villages of Angoon, Craig, Kake, Klawock, Hydaburg, Hoonah, and Yakutat.

Seventy-five per cent of the \$78,000 necessary to run the programs will come from federal money channeled through the State of Alaska. The remaining quarter of the program's expenses will be forthcoming from the villages participating.

The organizational effort needed to establish the day care programs has already been initiated by the Juneau staff of SEACAP, all seven day care programs will begin operating by the first week in July. The centers will continue through cannery season and terminate with the opening of the schools

in the fall of 1972.

Shortly thereafter, the administration and staff of the seven centers will gather for an evaluation session to modify and strengthen the program for the following season.

Mr. Jackson emphasized that the policy of SEACAP shall be to delegate most of the operating responsibility to each particular community day care center. SEACAP's primary role will be the handling of the paperwork and inter-agency coordination necessary to establish the programs, lessening the administrative requirements for the villages and allowing the local directors to concentrate their full attention upon the daily operations of their own centers.

Women in the small villages must frequently take summer work to supplement meager family incomes. However, they are seldom able to find adequate child care services for their younger children. SEACAP intends to furnish these essential social services in the seven communities through its new program.

The program objectives anticipate the involvement of the child's parents whenever possible and an emphasis upon the family as fundamental to the child's development.

Daily hot meals and nutritious snacks will be prepared for the child, provision will be made for coordinated health services, and educational opportunities will be offered every child appropriate to his age.

The educational activities will provide for daily large and small muscle activity, individual and group table activities, musical and other games, exercises to aid language development and activities designed to perpetuate the child's cultural heritage.

It is the intent of SEACAP through its day care program for expanded state and federal social services in the rural areas and to establish a workable proto-type program which can be used by other small communities in Alaska.