

BIA HIGH SCHOOL POLICY RESHAPED

Diversion of Funds to Eventually Close Down Mt. Edgecumbe H.S.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Highly placed Bureau of Indian Affairs officials yesterday informed Sen. E. L. Bartlett of deliberations at top BIA levels to completely reshape Bureau's secondary education policy in Alaska.

Final decision on this effort is expected within a week.

Under the new approach, BIA would divert funds now

appropriated for Mt. Edgecumbe to construction of a 200-bed dormitory in Sitka with construction to begin this summer.

Additional funds would be transferred to Sitka school system to expand its high school to accommodate southeastern Alaska Indian students. When the construction is completed, Mt. Edgecumbe would be closed.

Sitka undertaking would free funds to start construction of planned 300-bed dormitory at Bethel, the construction of this facility to begin as soon as possible.

A dormitory at Anchorage would be built. BIA officials hope Sitka, Bethel, Anchorage projects would be completed in two or three years.

Also part of the plan is hostels at University of Alaska where the university would administer high for natives from that part of the state. Fairbanks facility

(Continued on page 6)

BIA HIGH

(Continued from page 1)

would include Institute of Fine Arts similar to BIA facility in New Mexico.

Top officials stress none of these schools to be racially segregated; all to be under direction of the state. Federal government would provide construction funds and Johnson-O'Malley finds to defray school operating costs for natives.

Bartlett said the new approach "is perhaps dictated to a very considerable extent by the heavy recent criticism leveled against Mt. Edgecumbe in respect to the segregated school system there and to the alleged below-average educational facilities."