

Brandley Proposes Industry for Villages

An increased emphasis on tourism and light industry in Alaska's bush villages was urged today by Kent Brandley, Democratic candidate for the State House of Representatives from District B.

"There is no reason why, with the proper incentives, Alaska's Native people should not directly share in money spent by visitors to Alaska."

Brandley proposed a state incentive loan program to encourage construction of small hotel facilities in bush villages such as Chalkyitsik, Stevens Village, Venetie, Beaver and others.

"Light industries could be centered around arts and crafts at the beginning," Brandley said. He suggested

that instead of sending furs outside Alaska for tanning that this could become a village industry in the Interior. Villages could specialize in an item such as parkas, mukluks or other functional wearing apparel.

"I would like to see the state begin to get out of the welfare business and into the business of encouraging light industry in the villages through a program of loans and instruction."

He said similar programs have worked well in the Southwestern part of the United States and tribes there have formed cooperatives which have raised the living standard of the people considerably.

Most of Alaska's tourists would enjoy visiting our Interior Indian villages if facilities for their comfort could be constructed. This would mean improving airport facilities as well and this in turn would generate more jobs. "I think the people are willing to work if we come up with the jobs," he said.