

Gov. Hickel Asks Shriver's Help to Fight Poverty

JUNEAU—Alaska Governor Walter Hickel has called on the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington to join in efforts to gear up a special state—federal task force to fight poverty in the 49th State.

In a letter to Sargent Shriver, director of the OEO, Hickel said, "I invite you to join with us in our efforts and give us the benefit of

(Continued on page 6)

Hickel Asks Shriver's Help...

(Continued from Page 1)

resources you have available to make our Alaska a better Alaska for tomorrow.

"A new look and fresh ideas are always welcome in our state."

Shriver, who toured Alaska earlier this month, has called living conditions endured by many Alaskans in remote areas as "appalling as any in the world."

While here, Shriver told the governor the key to alleviating poverty lies in bolstering and broadening the state's economic base through constant efforts to upgrade

present industries and economic resources and by attracting new ones."

Shriver indicated in conversations with Hickel that he would be enthusiastic about pooling state and federal OEO efforts.

In a letter to Shriver—the former director of the Peace Corps and a close advisor to President Kennedy—Hickel said:

"Your visit to Alaska to gain first-hand information was greatly appreciated. I'm sure, from our discussions, that you have a good

knowledge of some of the problems that face our state.

"We have already moved for development of the timber resources in the Interior and Western Alaska," Hickel added, "and better utilization of the fisheries industry through new methods of processing and innovation in fisheries development has been started."

"As I discussed with you," Hickel continued, "transportation for the Arctic, which will include a railroad to the Nome area and a winter road system is also of prime importance."

"To carry out all of these vital projects," the governor concluded in the letter, "we need the collective resources of the people in the rural areas of Alaska. By implementing these programs, it will assist these people to make the transition from a subsistence economy to the cash economy of our world today.

"Hopefully, their traditions and culture which they have to be proud of will not be lost in this transition."

Hickel said Kris Lethin, director of the Alaska Office of Economic Opportunity, is working with OEO officials in Washington to get the state-federal task force functioning.