

# GROUNDWORK ON ETV IN THREE COMMUNITIES

The village people at Fort Yukon are excited these days because plans are being made for them to have satellite television that may come into their schoolrooms and village centers as early as next September.

The people of Nome and Kodiak are also pleasantly anticipating the same service that will come into their areas around the same time. Nome residents had taken the idea so seriously that they raised out-of-pocket money in the amount of \$1,500 for organizational expenses.

Bernard W. Poirier, assistant

to Sen. Mike Gravel in Gravel's Washington office, has been traveling to the three towns laying the groundwork for satellite TV reception this fall.

Poirier's work stems from the Pilot Satellite Program sponsored by Sen. Gravel recently. The idea is an expansion from the satellite reception for Ahcnorage area of the landing on the moon of Apollo 11 last week. This was made possible by Sen. Gravel's insistence in asking Pentagon and the National Aeronautic and Space Administration for live TV reception of the moonshot.

Poirier returned from Fort Yukon this week after laying the groundwork for TV reception there.

The Yukon River Village will have Educational Television reception at the schools in the morning and late in the afternoon in seven village centers.

The centers have been designated as the Mission House, Fort Yukon Community Winter Hall, Pete's Place, Teen House, Rural Alaska Community Action Program center, Yukon Lodge and Yukon King Hotel. There will be two or three televisions in each

center.

The system, if it gets off the ground, will utilize NASA's ATS-1 satellite now orbiting idle and which is ideally positioned for Alaska TV reception.

And, too, the White House has approved Sen. Gravel's idea of Alaska being permitted use of the Canadian domestic satellite planned for use starting in 1971. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau of Canada has also been highly receptive to the idea.

The pilot program for the three communities is for this year. Bernard Poirier said other villages will be added each year.

"Not all villages the same year but about 30 or 40 each year," said Poirier.

Poirier said he met with the State Legislative Council in Anchorage and met last Tuesday with the University of Alaska representatives.

"The University, because of its experience in rural education, would like the management of the ETV portion in Fairbanks," stated Poirier.

He said that Sen. Gravel would like to have the ETV commence next September in the three communities.

"We are simply waiting for the Governor," said Poirier. "The communities have taken action, Kodiak, Nome and Fort Yukon. U. S. Government is taking action. Even the Canadian government is taking action, but no action yet in Juneau."

Poirier said, however, that a meeting with Gov. Keith Miller on the subject was planned for tomorrow in Juneau. The Legislative Council under the chairmanship of Rep. Eugene Guess of Anchorage will also join the meeting along with an additional senator and a representative.