

*For emergency use--*

## RCA orbits domestic satellite

BETHEL — A 13 kilowatt diesel generator was flown to Bethel during the past week-end to provide emergency power for the court facilities which were closed following the fire Dec. 2 which destroyed the elec-

tric power facility of the Bethel Utilities Corp.

The generator was purchased by the Alaska Court System in Anchorage two days after the fire which plunged the city of 3,500 people into a near total blackout.

Clarence W. Erickson, manager of materiel operations for the Alaska Court System, said the emergency generators which were flown to the city immediately after the fire can provide only enough power to serve alternating sections of the city with sufficient power for heat and to prevent further freezing of the utility services in the city.

He said the limited electrical

generating capacity in the city is not sufficient to reopen the court facilities.

He said that to assure the continued operation of the court activities in Bethel a 13 kilowatt generator was purchased in Anchorage two days after the fire and it was flown to Bethel over the weekend.

Erickson said a shelter housing will have to be built for the generator to assure that the noise of its operation will not interfere with the electronic recording of court proceedings. He expected them to be completed by Dec. 15 and the court could reopen at that time.

Since the fire Bethel District Court Judge Nora Guinn

has been conducting criminal arraignments in the city jail. A superior court criminal trial had completed its second day of jury selection on Dec. 2 when the power plant burned. Superior Court Judge Eben H. Lewis recessed the trial.

It was thought at first that it would be necessary to move the trial to another city, but the trial will resume in Bethel as soon as the new generator is put in operation.

Erickson said the new generator will provide power for court operations until a new power plant is completed in Bethel sometime next fall. He said the generator will then serve as a standby unit to provide power during any future emergency.

Without the generator, Erickson said, it would be necessary to transfer trials and other matters to other cities and the work of the recording office would have to be done in Anchorage. With the generator the court system can continue its activities in Bethel.