

State Labor Department Initiates Computerized Job Info System

JUNEAU—The Alaska Department of Labor will initiate a statewide computerized manpower information system in January, Commissioner Thomas J. Moore announced today.

The Commissioner said the program will be based on the experience gained from the Department's Smaller Communities Program which is serving as a pilot project for the new system.

Under the Smaller Communities Program, a team was sent to the Barrow-Wainwright area in late June to survey and record skill characteristics and training needs of workers.

The information gathered during the team's visit was fed into data processing equipment in

Juneau, and retrieved for matching with job openings or for occupational training projects.

"Using computer-assisted technology, we achieved significant results in matching applicants with jobs and in selecting applicants for referral to occupational training projects," Moore said.

•The Smaller Communities Program team is currently working in Valdez and along the highway to Tok Junction to gather similar information about workers in that area.

"A centralized computer-assisted matching system, established on a permanent basis by the Department of Labor, will be particularly effective in pro-

viding more meaningful manpower services to Alaska rural communities," the Commissioner commented. "Rural job-seekers presently have a decided disadvantage in gaining consideration for jobs or job-training elsewhere in the State."

According to Moore, the statewide manpower information system calls for the continual feeding of job application information into a centralized computer from the Department of Labor's network of urban Manpower Centers and rural outreach offices.

The Commissioner said the new system will use the Department's teletype hook-up between Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks to transmit information. "We plan to expand the use of teletype to additional areas."

Moore said all manpower agencies in the public and private sector are being encouraged to participate in the manpower information program. He indicated proposals by any interested group will be considered by his department.