

Loan given to OTZ in Kotzebue

WASHINGTON—The Rural Electrification Administration has approved a \$3,355,000 loan to assist the OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc. in Kotzebue to provide a telephone exchange for Kotzebue and seven other villages.

The REA loan will be made at a special interest rate of two per cent "because of hardship resulting from unusual circumstances," Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, was advised

recently.

Purpose of the loan is to finance facilities to connect 891 additional subscribers and improve service for 193 existing telephone subscribers.

It will be used to construct new dial central office buildings in Kotzebue, Ambler, Kiana, Kivalina, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik, and Shungnak exchanges and construct 437 miles of new line, according to REA.