

Program Needs Federal Money

U.S. Senate candidate Gene Guess said at a meeting of the State Library Association in Fairbanks that the bilingual education program in rural Alaskan schools has worked well and federal monies should be made available so that it can be expanded.

"As the Speaker of the Alaska State House I worked hard for the legislation requiring bilingual education in rural schools. This legislation package give Alaskan villagers a say in what language is used to teach their children.

"The schools in rural Alaska have so far contributed substantially to discouraging native culture by using English exclusively instead of local languages.

"It is of course important

that the rural Alaskan children learn English but it is equally important that they do not lose the ability to speak their old native tongue. The bilingual education program gives the children an opportunity for literacy in two languages.

"I think the program should be expanded from present. It provides the children and their parents with a choice, and it gives the students a chance to appreciate both their local cultures and the predominant Western culture," Guess said.