

Gov. Miller Orders Manpower Center

JUNEAU—Governor Keith H. Miller ordered State agencies to muster their resources toward early establishment of a Manpower Service Center to prepare Alaska's disadvantaged persons for jobs.

The Governor explained, "Despite the sincere efforts of many State and Federal agencies, too many Alaskans are not sharing fully in the benefits of our rapidly increasing economy.

"I am recommending that government resources be combined to establish a centralized facility solely devoted to development of those Alaskans in need of basic education, prevocational training and special supportive services necessary to an individual in achieving trainability and employability."

Punctuating the Governor's statement, the Alaska Coordinated Area Manpower Planning System (CAMPS) Committee, meeting in Juneau Wednesday, endorsed the skill center concept.

The CAMPS Committee is composed of spokesman for State and Federal agencies expending manpower funds in the State of Alaska.

The CAMPS Committee has just completed a study of skill centers in the other western states and has concluded that an Alaskan center which would best meet the needs of Alaska's underprivileged people should:

- 1.) Have sufficient flexibility to allow enrollment in and completion of programs to best suit the potential of the individual, without regard for schedule limitations.

- 2.) Be funded on a continuing, rather than project by project, basis, so permanent, qualified staff can be maintained.

- 3.) Include assurance that all facilities and staff resources are available to the disadvantaged enrollees on a prime-time basis.

- 4.) Be located in a semi-rural community to provide a transition point between rural and urban environment.

Governor Miller indicated that this would be the forerunner of

regional skill centers in all major sections of the State. The facilities also could constitute the first step toward establishment of a much needed Alaskan Job Corps center to be established in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor.