

Elderly housing program

JUNEAU—Construction of housing complexes for the elderly in seven Southeast Alaska communities will begin this month, it was announced by Cyril W. George Sr., president of the Tlingit-Haida Housing Development Corporations.

George said the contracts were signed last week between the T-H Housing Development Corporation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Three and one half years were involved in planning and development of the \$4.2 million project. The construction method will be modular to be supplied by a joint venture between Western Modular Corporation, a Seattle based firm, and the Ketchikan firm of Boyd and Dalton Contractors.

In making the announcement, George expressed appreciation to HUD, U.S. Senators Ted Stevens and Mike Gravel and the administration of Alaska Governor Jay S. Hammond for assisting the Tlingits and Haidas in developing the project. It was Stevens and Gravel that sponsored the Housing Development Corporation's original application for housing assistance and recently got legislation passed to overcome technical problems that held up the project. The Department of Community and Regional Affairs provided a grant of \$280,000 from the Senior Citizen Housing Development Bond Fund to supplement the federal dollars in the project.

The project is unique in that Tlingit and Haida will proceed on one mortgage only-apartment style complexes. He said that management of the project will be by the Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority.

"The Tlingits & Haidas are proud of the effort involved," George added, "and we appreciate the cooperation of the communities, the contractors and the many others who were involved."

The Tlingit & Haida, the Alaska Native Brotherhood, have

long felt that they did not want to institutionalize their elderly in the larger communities. The Tlingit & Haida has the only program reservation under the HUD/202 program in the State of Alaska. The unit distribution is as follows; Hoonah, Haines, Kake, Klawock and Saxman will all receive 12 unit complexes; Craig-9 units and Sitka a 24 unit complex.