

\$40 million bond issue

JUNEAU—A bond issue totalling more than 40 million dollars for rural secondary schools was introduced in the Senate today by Senators John Sackett, R-Galena, Frank Ferguson, D-Kotzebue, and Chancy Croft, D-Anchorage.

The bill was offered by the bipartisan trio as an alternative to Governor Hammond's proposal for some 20 million dollars.

Senator Ferguson said the bill was filed "on behalf of the Hootch Case, which sought to have the State fulfill its obligation to provide educational facilities for all Alaskans."

Ferguson said he was dissatisfied with the Governor's bond proposals in general this year.

"The bond package for my district is the worst it has ever

been," he said. "Out of 239 million dollars, excluding school bonds, the governor provides only two million for my district. For a district which covers a quarter of the state, that's not enough."

Senate President Croft said his name was on the bill because, in his words, "the state should keep its commitments."

Senator Sackett explained, "The administration made a public commitment in the Hootch case to invest between 40 and 50 million dollars in rural secondary schools. The governor, by proposing half that amount this year and indicating the other half will come at a later date, is not abiding by that commitment.

"We simply think the state should stand by its word and produce the money for the schools."