

U.S. Postal Service in Seattle Sets Budget

SEATTLE—The U.S. Postal Service today announced a budget of \$21,740,000 for the state of Alaska for the fiscal year ending in June 1971.

Fred Huleen, director of the 5-state Northwest Region, said, "As one of the largest employers in the state we are proud of the part we play in Alaska's economy."

The Postal Service employs a total of 915 persons and operates 203 post offices in the state. And though it owns and operates 133 vehicles in Alaska, a large proportion of total spending goes for transportation of mail by air.

Of the total budget figure, \$8,400,000 is for salary expense with the remainder going for transportation of the mails, rent, taxes, supplies, services and maintenance of buildings.

Huleen said the Postal Service is highly aware of the need for prompt, efficient and reliable mail delivery.

"Our conversion to independent agency status will enable us to set high service standards through the delegation of management responsibility to post-

masters and through increased mechanization of mail handling procedures," he said.

The Northwest Region, with headquarters at Seattle, consists of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. It has a total budget of \$81,575,000 and about 23,000 employees at 1748 post offices.

The Region covers an area of 982,280 square miles, 27 percent of the nation's total area.