

Guilty of Making False Statements

JUNEAU—Orval Epton of Kodiak was recently found guilty of four counts of making false statements to collect unemployment insurance, a spokesman for the Alaska Department of Labor reported.

According to the spokesman, Epton failed to report for four weeks that he was working and earning money while filing claims for unemployment insurance benefits.

His trial was held in Kodiak District Court on October 6. He was fined \$200 on each of the four counts for a total of \$800, and sentenced to 30 days in jail on each count for a total of 120 days.

The judge suspended the fines and the jail terms on the condition that he is not convicted of any crime for a one-year period.

Also, Epton was ordered to repay the \$170 that he had collected illegally, within 90 days.

In addition, he was disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits for a period of 26 weeks.

The Labor Department spokesman said the fraud was discovered during the Department's routine audit of all unemployment insurance claims.

The audit calls for every claim to be checked with reports filed by employers.