

# EDA Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

The Economic Development Administration, the job generating arm of the U.S. Department of Commerce, celebrates her fifth year of operation this month.

Since its inception in 1965, EDA has spent \$22,984,000 in grants and loans in Alaska, according to C. Mark Smith, Western Regional Director of EDA.

EDA supplies Federal financial assistance to cities, rural areas and Indian reservations suffering from substantial and persistent unemployment problems. Their programs include Public Works Grants and Loans, Business Loans and funds for Planning and Technical Assistance, all designed to promote business and industrial expansion—for new jobs.

EDA has funded technical assistance grants to the Alaska Federation of Natives for Northwest and Southwest Development Planning Boards. Other Technical Assistance grants have supported telecommunication planning for Alaska; land use and law; arts and crafts promotion; tourism; and State Regional Development Districts.

Other EDA grants have assisted 24 Alaskan villages and cities in completing such projects as docks, cold storage, water and sewage systems, hospitals, industrial expansion, harbors, fishing facilities, vocational-technical and community centers.

Among the beneficiaries of technical assistance grants is the Tlingit-Haida Central Council, which received \$79,000 for development planning.