

# Flood Threat This Spring

## Concern Gov., Fed. Agencies

Governor William A. Egan said that representatives of the Alaska Disaster Office and Army Corps of Engineers have been conferring to consider the serious flood threat during spring breakup posed by the great depth of snow in interior Alaska.

The Governor wrote Colonel Clare Farley, district engineer for Alaska, on March 2 to voice his concern over the possibility of flooding along the Chena and Tanana rivers.

"I understand that engineers can estimate the amount of water in the snow and with reasonable accuracy predict the runoff," he wrote. "I would appreciate your looking into the situation at Fairbanks in the hope that, if necessary, some precautionary measures

can be instigated before breakup."

Farley replied on March 9:

"I share your concern for the possible flooding of the Chena and Tanana rivers during this year's breakup. The Weather Bureau has recorded a snowfall of 134.5 inches so far this year, which is close to the record.

"We, in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, are making a special study of the water content of the snow in the Fairbanks area and expect to have the first report this week. This information will be updated periodically and will form the basis for estimating the potential runoff in the watershed.

"We are presently holding a

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series of meetings with State and Federal agencies to plan coordinated action for flood reconnaissance and flood-fighting assistance should an emergency arise. Also planned is an early survey of the Fairbanks area to identify problem areas and arrange for precautionary measures where possible."

In addition to keeping an eye on the Fairbanks area, the Corps of Engineers and Alaska Disaster Office, working jointly, are also making surveys along the other main river systems of the State, the Governor said.