

# Reminds Alaskans On Med. Programs

WASHINGTON—Senator E.L. Bartlett reminded Alaskans who were 65 or over by January 1 that they must apply by March 31 to be eligible for all Medicare programs which begin July 1.

Medicare includes hospital insurance and medical insurance programs. The former covers up to 60 days of hospital care (the first \$40 deductible) and 30 additional days of hospital care (\$10 a day deductible).

It also provides for outpatient hospital diagnostic services, post-hospital home health care and post-hospital extended care (does not start until January 1, 1967).

Medical insurance will pay for physicians' and surgeons' fees, for up to 100 home health visits and such other services as diagnostic tests, radiation treatments, surgical dressings and rental of medical equipment.

Persons receiving social security or railroad retirement benefits are enrolled automatically in the hospital insurance program.

Many persons not receiving social security or railroad retirement are still eligible for the program. However, they must apply to be enrolled. These persons should contact their local Social Security office of the State Social Security office in Juneau.

All persons must apply for the voluntary medical insurance program. Enrollees will pay \$3 a month. Millions of applications for this program have been mailed to eligible citizens.

Persons who have lost the application or have never received one should contact a social security office by letter, telephone or personal visit.

Persons receiving federal civil service retirement annuities should get additional information by mail.

Persons qualifying for the hospital program will receive a health insurance card before July 1. The card also will indicate if they have enrolled in the medical insurance program.

Persons not signing up during the first period in which they are eligible will not be able to enroll until the next general enrollment period, which in this case is Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 1967. Coverage will not begin until the following July, and premiums may be higher.

"For those reasons, I urge all eligible persons who have any questions about Medicare to contact an official of the Social Security Administration before March 31," Sen. Bartlett said.

Initial enrollment figures for persons turning 65 after Jan. 1, 1966, run from three months before the month they become 65 to three months after the month they are 65.