

University woes blamed upon computer

From Our Juneau Bureau

University of Alaska president Hiatt testified last week to the Finance Committee of the Alaska State House of Represen-

tatives on the current financial problems of the educational institution. Hiatt, citing problems in bringing up programs on a new computer system, says

that the university had been unable, since October of last year, to collect money from federal programs for services provided.

In switching to a new computer system last fall the university found that after the

prior system was cancelled the new computer system was unable to program out the proper information and technicians had been working until just recently to pry information out of the system. Hiatt said, "When the University was a good bit small-

er it could be patched up and made to work." According to Hiatt, the first problems were seen when the payroll system began to falter.

Hiatt said that he felt the university officials were slightly "misinformed about the computer system" and when the old system was discarded and the new system brought up on the computer it did not work.

Loss of status reports on a quarterly basis that provide labor distribution reports has effected millions in federal contracts monthly. The University has just now made the billings to the government for this quarter and expects that the following billings will be current. According to Hiatt, the University receivable accounts will bring in \$15 million by the end of July but that problems have resulted in a cash flow problem of \$10 million.

Hiatt said, "As soon as I was made aware of this, I came right down to the legislature and asked what they recommended."