

Governor Calls Conference on Native Housing

Governor Walter J. Hickel has announced a meeting of key members of his administration, Native leaders, and Federal observers for May 25-26 in Anchorage to develop a specific program for the solution of Native housing problems.

The governor said he plans to appoint 10 Native leaders as a Native housing task force, under authority given him by the 1967 legislature in the creation of a Rural Affairs Commission.

Hickel said the meeting will be a continuation of administration efforts to get the Native Housing Act into operation.

"The program has been moving," Hickel said. "It is of the utmost concern to us." He said he was confident that

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Native Housing Conference . . .

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Congress would restore the \$1 million asked by President Johnson to start the program.

"It's a complex problem. We not only have to alleviate the housing situation, but we also have to try and come up with a plan for economic development in the rural areas, or the situation will just revert to what it has been in the past."

State personnel to attend the meeting are: Everett Bunes, deputy commissioner of economic development; Mark Jacobs and Morris Thompson of the Rural Affairs Agency;

Kris Lethin of the state Office of Economic Opportunity; Larry Montgomery of the Local Affairs Agency; Richard Sheppard, director of federal-state relations; Scott MacDonald, administrative officer; and Walter Kaville of the Economic Development Administration.