

Special Funds

The government has released special funds to transport Alaska Natives from remote villages to job training centers for pipeline construction work, Sen. Ted Stevens said recently.

The senator said the Office of Management and Budget has approved reprogramming of \$389,000 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide transportation to job training sites. The funds came from allotments originally made for welfare and employment assistance programs.

Although federal and state agencies have set up programs to train Alaska natives for pipeline jobs, Stevens said, "Progress has been delayed due to lack of funds to bring the natives from the villages to training centers."

He said the budgetary switch should solve the problem this year, and hopefully next year's appropriation will include necessary transportation funds.