

'T.V. Now' Takes Another Step Forward

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The "T.V. Now" Project proposed by Senator Mike Gravel has taken another step forward, according to the Department of Defense.

Under the Gravel Plan, TV programs telecast at military bases at Galena, Fort Greely, Tatolina, Kodiak and Sparrevohn would be extended throughout certain areas of Alaska.

The Pentagon notified Senator Gravel that his plan, first proposed last February, appears feasible and that the Defense Department hopes to make the same agreement for other areas as it is now doing for the King Salmon-Dillingham extension.

The Pentagon believes that once the Federal Communications Commission acts on the application from Dillingham the necessary precedence of Federal approval and State support will have been established.

Senator Gravel received assurances that "The American Forces Radio and Television Service office in Los Angeles is now in contact with the (TV and film) industry to obtain required

clearances."

The Senator's "T.V. Now" Project would permit many communities to have at least some regular TV programming.

The first communities to benefit would be in the Kuskokwim River Valley, the Tanana River area and on St. Lawrence Island. "At least 45 communities would benefit, perhaps more," said Senator Gravel.

The cost of extending military television programming to some 18 communities around Dillingham is approximately \$42,500. Needed State funds for this segment of the "T.V. Now" Project have been assured.

In February, Senator Gravel said that a 200-foot tower with a 100-watt translator would serve that community and many other nearby communities. A 200-foot tower would be placed at Naknek with a 500-watt translator to benefit communities in the Bristol Bay area nearby.

Similar relay of television would serve the new areas. "All of this is compatible with the eventual satellite system for distributing public and educational

television to every corner of Alaska," Senator Gravel said.

"Until some additional survey work is done, we can estimate the cost to serve 45 communities at an average of \$5,500 per community," Senator Gravel

said.

This is in line with the \$18.00 per viewer construction cost estimated by Senator Gravel at the time he corresponded with Governor Miller in February, 1970.

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Governor Proclaims Transportation Era

FAIRBANKS—Gov. Keith H. Miller last week hailed a new era in transportation in Alaska as he dedicated a new Department of Highways complex here.

"This dedication marks a record year in highway construction," Governor Miller said, "but it also marks the beginning of a new era in which Alaskans will be able to drive from Dillingham to Delaware, Nome to New York and Barrow to Boston."

The Governor made the comments as he outlined his administration's long-range highway program that calls for surface transportation links between villages and communities that heretofore have been accessible only by water or air.

Miller said, "In summary, we intend to have 14,150 miles of new highways by 1990 at a present day cost of \$2.6 billion.

These highways will link villages that previously have not had surface transportation connections with their neighboring villages, let alone distant communities and cities."

He added, "It will be possible to get in your car here in Fairbanks and drive to Nome, and the people of Nome will be able to pack their car and drive all the way to New York if they want."

Average Cost of Foster Child in Homes Sought

The Alaska Department of Health and Welfare Statistical Service has recently sent questionnaires to all foster parents in Alaska to determine the average cost of providing for a foster child in a private home.

Once the questionnaires are returned and the data compiled, the Department of Health and Welfare will then have a basis for establishing rates to be paid during the coming year.

Since there are some 550 licensed foster homes throughout the state, it is necessary that as many questionnaires as possible be returned to the Department as soon as possible.

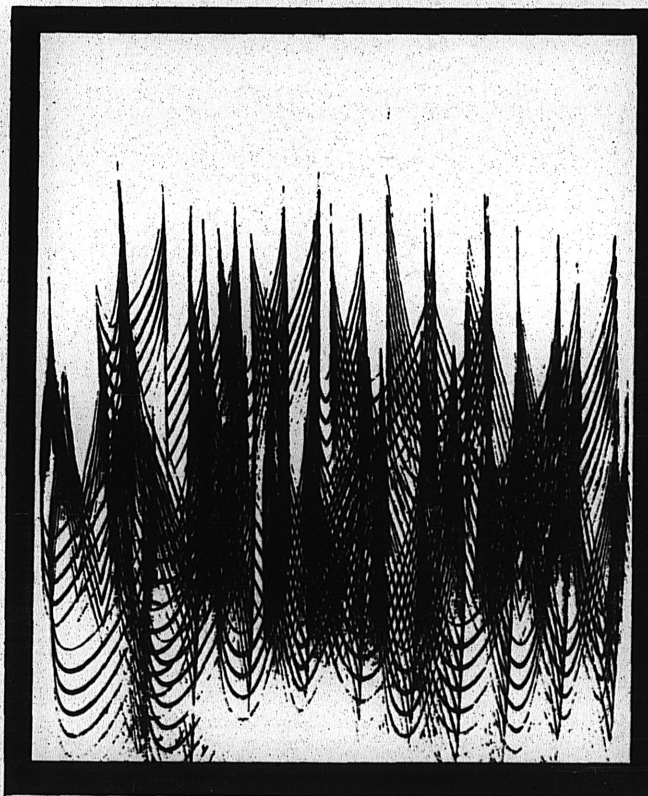
Bids on New Ft. Yukon Post Office Quarters Asked

The U.S. Postal Service is asking bids on new quarters to house the Fort Yukon post office.

The building would be leased to the Postal Service for a basic period of nine years with renewal options.

The Postal Service expects to expand Fort Yukon's existing post office space from 800 square feet to more than 2200 square feet.

Bidding documents may be obtained from Clark Cottrell, Chief, Real Estate Branch, Box 9000, Seattle, WA. 98109.



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