

## ***To Aid Eskimo Tots—***

# **Yuk Eskimo Dialect**

The BIA disclosed plans for the first bilingual education program designed for Eskimo learners.

Three Kuskokwim River villages will participate in the pilot project of teaching the child in his first language—Eskimo.

C.A. Richmond, Area Director, stated this is a joint endeavor with the University of Alaska.

The BIA will conduct the Educational Program and provide funding for the university to train the teachers and develop teaching materials in the Yuk Eskimo dialect.

Miss Irene Reed, linguist at the University of Alaska, has only

recently completed the orthography for the Yuk dialect that allows for a standardization of the written language.

She will be in charge of developing culturally relevant materials in the Eskimo language.

The six year olds in the BIA schools at Akiachak, Napakiak, and Nunapitchuk will enter school this fall with the opportunity to understand everything introduced to them.

Language will no longer be a learning hazard, and English will become a subject to be learned in conjunction with their other studies.