

Alaska Expanding Its Manpower Program

JUNEAU—Alaska is expanding its manpower training programs to include vocational training for inmates in State correctional institutions, the office of Keith H. Miller announced.

"The U.S. Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare have approved a \$66,000 grant for inmate courses in mechanical maintenance and electrical repair under provisions of the Manpower Development and Training Act," Gov. Miller said. "These are the first such MDTA programs authorized in the State."

The program will be conducted through the coordinated efforts of the State Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Welfare, Gov. Miller said.

The initial courses will be held at the State Jail at Lemon Creek near Juneau. They will begin within 60 days and will include 30 trainees who will undergo a 48-week training period.

"During training, the inmate trainees will be paid a training allowance of \$25 a week," Gov. Miller added. "They will be given \$5 each week for personal expenses. The rest will be held in a reserve account until they are released from custody."

Gov. Miller said that inmates will be selected for the mechanical maintenance and electrical repair courses on the basis of aptitude and interest in these

fields.

Selection will be limited to inmates who are scheduled to be released just before the courses are completed or within three to six months following completion.

Gov. Miller noted that enrollment in the two training courses is not limited to inmates at the Lemon Creek correctional facility. "Trainees may be brought in from other State correctional facilities as space becomes available," he said.

"I am particularly pleased that this MDTA inmate training grant has been made available to the State," Gov. Miller said. "It gives us an opportunity to provide prisoners with marketable skills that will enable them to get jobs after they have served their sentences."

Members of the inmate program selection team will include representatives from the Employment Service of the State Department of Labor, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Education, and the Division of Corrections in the Department of Health and Welfare.