

## Housing Requests Coming from Bush

Applications requesting construction of new homes under the Remote Housing Program are beginning to come in from villages all over the State of Alaska to the Alaska State Housing Authority.

The Housing Authority recently sent 175 applications to the remote communities outlining provisions of the program and asking for return of an application if the village were interested in being considered as a site for construction of the first homes.

An initial \$1 million dollars has been appropriated by the Federal Government. Cost of each dwelling is limited by Senate Bill 1915 to an average of \$7,500.

Selection of sites for the first homes will be made by the Remote Housing Executive Committee after receipt of the applications. An ASHA spokesman said that, so far, 19 villages have returned the completed applications, and the deadline for their submission is January 7, 1969.

The Committee will meet January 14 to begin the review

and many considerations will have to be weighed in determining which communities will benefit by the housing program—besides the need for the housing, which most of the areas have, potential economic growth of the community will be considered.

It is important that all communities be advised of this program since any remote area within the State of Alaska is eligible to apply.

If, through an error, a village was overlooked and has not received an application but wishes to be considered for this housing a letter should be written to the Alaska State Housing Authority, P.O. Box 179, Anchorage, and that office will forward the formal document for completion.

ASHA reports that the villages which have expressed interest by submitting formal applications for the houses are: Chignik Lake, Karluk, Old Harbor, Pilot Point, Chevak, Kotlik, Anaktuvuk Pass, Kaltag, Minto, Noorvik, Teller, Hydaburg, Ekwok, Gulkana, Kohnok, Birch Creek, Hooper Bay, Ivanof, and Ohlsenahale.

## Novel Lettuce Refrigeration Methods Showing Signs of Being Successful

Experimental research being conducted in Palmer by State Senator Jan Koslosky with the assistance of the University of Alaska has been described by Governor Walter J. Hickel as being, "of great significance to the future of produce farming in the Matanuska Valley."

Koslosky, who has been experimenting with various ways of retaining the freshness of lettuce, met with Governor Hickel recently to report on the preliminary results of his experiments.

These experiments, Koslosky said, have been concerned with holding lettuce in cold storage for long periods.

He presented the governor with samples of lettuce which appeared quite fresh although they had been in storage for over two months—twice the length of time previously thought possible.

Koslosky noted that lettuce farming in the Matanuska Valley is presently worth \$300,000 annually to the farmers there and predicted that if his project proved successful, lettuce farming could be developed into a million-dollar-a-year industry.

"We feel certain that by making lettuce less perishable, we can stimulate its production in the Matanuska Valley," he said.

Working with Koslosky on the experiment are Dr. Horace Drury, Ivan Branton and Charles Logsdon of the University of Alaska.

The team has tried several different ways of storing the produce by changing such variables as temperature, humidity, oxygen content and different types of containers as well as some experimenting with nitrogen gas and plastic bags.

The method currently being used involves packing the lettuce loosely in cardboard boxes and storing them at a constant temperature slightly above freezing. After packing, the crates of lettuce are stored at the Four Corners refrigeration plant in Palmer.

Koslosky says that he hopes some private firm will "pick up the ball" and develop the project



STATE SENATOR Jan Koslosky (right) of Palmer shows Governor Walter J. Hickel some heads of lettuce he has kept in storage for two months. Koslosky is working with the University of Alaska to develop a method of cold storage which he hopes will help stimulate lettuce farming in the Matanuska Valley.

—Photo by WARD G. WELLS

into a money-making venture.

"Alaska produces the best quality cool weather vegetables in the U.S.," he said. "There's no reason why we can't compete with the outside market and provide a better product at the same time."

Lettuce grown "Outside," Koslosky noted, usually goes through many different temperature and humidity changes in shipment and is often poor quality by the time it reaches Alaskan markets.

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