

# Remote Housing Program To Begin in 10 Native Villages

Natives in ten Alaska villages will be building their own new houses this summer with materials furnished under the Remote Housing Program, which is administered by the Alaska State Housing Authority.

Jay Mueller, Executive Director for ASHA, has announced the receipt of one million dollars from the Department of Housing and Urban Development which will be used exclusively for materials and supplies for the ASHA-designed dwellings.

All administration expenses of the program will be borne by the State.

"There are seven contracts already let to supply various categories of building materials. We expect the materials to be delivered and construction to start in mid August," said Mueller.

Project supervision will be handled by two construction foremen, aided by one or two construction assistants in each village. The actual construction will be done on a "mutual help" basis by the families selected to receive housing assistance.

The "mutual help" program is not a new one to ASHA. In 1967, 22 houses were completed in Grayling, Alaska, under this type of program, and ASHA is the housing authority for a low-income mutual help project being constructed in cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Charles Booher, Remote Housing Coordinator for ASHA,

and Melvin Charlie, his Assistant, are now visiting the ten villages to arrange sites so that when the materials arrive, construction can commence.

The ten villages which were selected to participate in the first year's program by the Remote Housing Executive Committee are Akiachak, Chevak, Emmonak, Kiana, Kivalina, Kotlik, Minto, Noorvik, Quinhagak, and Shismaref.

The committee relied heavily on the recommendations of community officials in selecting the individual families which would participate.

A total of 160 families have been given a choice of three house plans prepared by ASHA for their new homes; seven families will construct additions to

their existing dwellings.

The "Loft" plan is estimated to cost \$6,460; the "Core" and "Series" plans are estimated at approximately \$5,875 each to build; and each addition to existing dwelling is estimated at \$3,975.

Monthly payments to ASHA, after the homes are occupied, will depend upon the size of family, income, etc. Mueller noted that this is a home ownership program which provides grants and long term low-interest loans.