Moore Asks Aid for Alakanuk

Commissioner of Labor, Thomas J. Moore, stated his Department has been asked for help in finding summer employment for up to 120 unemployed cannery workers who reside at Alakanuk, a small Eskimo village at the mouth of the Yukon River on the Bering Sea.

The Point Adams fish cannery in that village is being closed, apparently because of failure to meet certain requirements of the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

Community leaders advise that the shutdown will affect the main source of jobs for the community, and result in real hardship.

Moore said, "Our Department is sending Bill Bramkamp, Manager of our Nome State Employment Service Manpower Center, to Alakanuk this week to obtain specific information on applicants who would be willing to accept employment for the summer in fish and shellfish processing plants in other Alaska locations.

"At the same time Doris Simon, Manager of our Kodiak office is making preliminary contacts with superintendents and officials of Pacific Alaska Fisheries, Pan Alaska Fisheries, Alaska Packers, and others in plants in the Aleutian Islands, and around Kodiak Island."

The Labor Commissioner indicated the initial response from industry officials was very encouraging, with genuine interest shown in utilizing the experienced Alakanuk workers, and in committing work stations for them.

"This is another significant example of cooperation between Alaska industry and State government," Commissioner Moore concluded.