

Fund Shortage

JUNEAU—Gov. Walter J. Hickel today called for "Immediate and vigorous action" on the part of Alaska's congressional Delegation to remedy what the governor called "A forthcoming shortage of funds for unemployment compensation payments to former federal employees and servicemen now living in Alaska."

In wires to Alaska Sens. E. L. Bartlett and Ernest Gruening, and Rep. Howard W. Pollock, Hickel said:

"Persons in these categories receive unemployment benefits from a special fund that is separate from the main portion of Alaska's unemployment compensation fund. However, these funds are due to be depleted today, March 15, and at that time no further federal funds have been allocated for this purpose."

Hickel noted that a bill authorizing a supplemental appropriation for unemployment compensation payments is presently in the U.S. Senate. He urged Bartlett and Gruening to work for rapid passage of the measure.

"If the proper federal funds are not available in time," Hickel continued in his wires, "then state employment service offices will have to accumulate and hold in abeyance all benefit claims from former federal employees and servicemen, until such time as Congress provides these funds."