

Feasibility Study On Prefab Plant

Sen. E. L. (Bob) Bartlett this week announced that the Economic Development Administration has awarded a contract for \$35,140 to Walter Butler Company of St. Paul, Minn., to conduct a feasibility study of housing prefabrication plant at Bethel.

Bartlett stated that the study has as its principal objective the design and construction of a pilot assembly plant building to be used for the prefabrication of housing units for Alaskans in the remote areas.

"This is one of the most imaginative and constructive steps taken, Sen. Bartlett said, "to assist Alaska native people to obtain the housing they need and want.

"The pilot plant will mean production of decent housing, creation of jobs, development of a cash economy and the provision of training, all in a remote area."

"The project developed by the EDA at the urging of Federal Field Committee,

depends for success upon all federal and state agencies concerned with the development problems of Alaska's remote areas."

Bartlett said that it was his understanding that the plant could be used in the Alaska Native Housing Program, in the Public Housing Program administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or could be purchased by individuals.

If it is found feasible, the EDA would make funds available on a grant and loan basis to the City of Bethel for construction of the plant.

The plant would be retained by Bethel as a community building after its use as a manufacturing plant has ended.

The building would be leased to a private manufacturer who would buy and manufacture or assemble the housing components, transport and erect them.