

Governor Asked To Request for Food Surplus

Senator Ernest Gruening late this week sent a telegram to Gov. Walter J. Hickel on behalf of natives from Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak Island urging him to request federal surplus food for them from Department of Agriculture and "to establish a procedure for its shipment to and distribution in these villages and any other where distress is evident."

Senator Gruening wired governor: "I have now received appeals for food from a number of Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak Island villages. These include: Perryville, Chignik Lake, Ivanoff Bay, Karluk, Old Harbor and Ahkhiok.

Undoubtedly, village councils in these places have

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Gov. Asked . . .

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contacted me in mistaken belief that since this is federal surplus food which Department of Agriculture can donate, action must be initiated here in Washington. Fact, as you know, is that request for surplus commodities must be initiated by state administration."

Several weeks ago, Senator Gruening recommended to Governor that State of Alaska "should move promptly to request surplus commodities from Department of Agriculture for distribution in other fishing areas in addition to Bristol Bay where hunger will exist this winter because of poor salmon runs of 1967 season. Specific requests I have made previously covered villages in Southeastern Alaska and in Bethel area."