

# Senator Hensley Seeks AVEC Funds

Newly elected State Senator Willie Hensley (D-Kotzebue) has been in Washington during the past two weeks seeking funds for upgrading electric powerplants operated in Alaskan villages by the Alaska Village Electric Corporation.

Hensley said that AVEC is seeking a fourth-year grant, totaling 1.6 million dollars, a supplemental grant of \$135,000 per month for a 4 month period during 1971, and a "get well" grant to cover substantial AVEC accounts payable for expenditures that would normally have been paid by the OEO.

"We want to get the system on an even keel so that AVEC may spend its time planning the system rather than responding to crises," Hensley said.

"We want to be able to quickly respond to the types of problems that could occur in a village and have at least a

B level of maintenance," he added.

Hensley stated that AVEC has had to curtail construction and that the corporation may be in serious danger from maintenance problems and a lack of ability to respond to emergencies if adequate funding isn't received.

"AVEC will have electrified at least 40 villages by February, and many of these will already need improvements," he said.

Hensley cited benefits that villages have received because of AVEC operations.

He noted that at least 80 men from Alaskan villages have received substantial training in diesel operation.

Many villages would have no source of power without AVEC, he added.

"Income from AVEC goes to the villages through employment and through numerous benefits of electrification," he concluded.