

Gov. Declares Open War on Narcotics

JUNEAU—In a first step to fulfill a pledge made in his State of the State message to the Legislature in January, Governor Keith H. Miller late last week asked the Chairmen of the House and Senate Finance Committees to approve an increase of \$154,500 in the budget of the Department of Public Safety.

In his address to the joint session of the Legislature on January 30 the Governor had said, "We declare open war on narcotic and dangerous drug traffic and use."

The increase for public safety would be to implement the fulfillment of that declaration.

Within the Department of Public Safety would be created a special "narcotics squad" of five men, who would be charged, according to the Governor, with "eradicating this menace from our daily lives through education, prevention and enforcement."

The program would include special training for the Troopers placed on the Squad, whose members would be located two each in the Northwest and

Southcentral regions of the State, and one in the Southeast.

When originally introducing the necessity of such a move to the Legislators, the governor had placed "all the resources of the State government" at their disposal, since, he asked, "what use are Alaska's physical resources if we do not protect our most valuable resource, our youth."