

Homes, Vital Program for Outlying Villages

A little published, but extremely vital program benefiting Alaska's villagers is being carried out under the remote housing program. To date it is providing 335 new homes to families in 18 Alaska villages.

Federal funding for the program is not budgeted for the coming year, and the state has taken steps to assure the continuation of the program by giving the voters an opportunity to vote on a three million dollar bond issue to be used for remote housing. Mr. Robert Schenker, executive director of the Alaska State Housing Authority—the agency responsible for the administration of the program, said last week that the housing conditions in the villages of our state are among the worst in

the world, and no money spent by the State of Alaska could possibly find better use than to provide decent, safe, sanitary homes for our people.

The program provides a combination of grant and loan to the villagers, and each home

owner participates in a mutual help program to construct the homes.

The average cost for materials, transportation, and supervisory help in constructing the homes is \$64,000.

The ability of the villagers to

build their own homes and to take advantage of the opportunity has been an extremely rewarding experience, according to Schenker, and demonstrates again "the determination of our people when opportunities are presented to them."