

Oil Industry Job Training Underway

JUNEAU—Implementation of the Stevens-Miller program for providing disadvantaged Alaskans with employment opportunities in the oil industry is well underway, Governor Keith H. Miller reported.

"Senator Ted Stevens has obtained the cooperation of oil companies in an industry-government sponsored training course at Mt. Edgecumbe this summer," the Governor said.

According to Governor Miller, the oil industry will supply instructors for the technical portions of the course as well as equipment and educational materials. The State will provide other necessary training resources, and the Bureau of Indian

Affairs has donated the use of Mt. Edgecumbe facilities.

Miller said preliminary plans for the 10-week oil industry orientation program were hammered out at a meeting of oil industry representatives and State and Federal officials. The meeting was held this week in Juneau.

The Governor added that the training program will include orientation, product knowledge, tools, materials handling, instruction on field operations and equipment, instrumentation, trouble-shooting, communications, and camp services.

Representatives of the office of Vocational Education and the oil industry will share the teaching duties, and the Department of Labor will do the recruiting. Classes will begin in June.

"This vitally needed program will do much to give our disadvantaged citizens an opportunity to obtain jobs in the oil industry," the Governor noted. "I am personally pleased with the cooperation that the oil industry has extended to this worthwhile venture."

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AFN Granted \$90,000 for Job Plans

Plans for more jobs and improved living conditions in several areas of rural Alaska have moved one step closer to fruition as the result of a \$90,000 grant recently received by the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Granted by the Economic Development Administration, the money will be used to try to implement plans drawn up last year.

As explained by the executive director of the AFN, Al Ketzler, the organization received an \$84,000 grant from the Economic Development Administra-

tion last year.

With this money, staff members were hired to develop regional planning boards in the North West district, the Kuskokwim, and the Yukon.

Then plans for economic development projects in these three areas were drawn up by the boards in coordination with federal and state agencies.

With the money received this year, the staff will write and submit proposals for grants and loans to fund the plans.

"None of the money," Ketzler explained, "will go directly to the projects but rather will be used as seed money to stimulate their development."

The plans center on increasing jobs and family income and providing improved housing, utilities, community services and education for rural residents.

In addition to the EDA funds, the AFN will contribute a \$32,987 in goods and services making the total program an almost \$123,000 effort.

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NBA is a financial partner to a lot of it. Alaskan exports to Japan totalled over \$65,000,000 last year. In fact, international trade in general is sky-rocketing. And NBA is solving attendant

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