

State, OEO Initiating Program To Train Native Policemen

JUNEAU—Gov. Walter J. Hickel announced details last week of a major program to provide police training for native Alaskans which can lead to employment in positions as rural policemen, with the Alaska State Troopers, and with correctional services around the state.

The Governor's announcement culminates several months of work by the departments of Public Safety,

Education, and Labor. The program has been developed to qualify rural Alaskans for professional positions in state and municipal careers.

The 34-week course will include basic education to increase educational development to the high school graduate level, plus intensive training in basic police subjects and on-the-job training with trooper posts and municipal agencies.

Public Safety Commissioner Mel J. Personett told the Governor recruiting for the program will begin immediately and the actual training course should begin within two months.

Sheldon Jackson Junior College at Sitka has been selected as the tentative site for the police training.

The departments of Public Safety and Labor will recruit trainees for the course, particularly in villages around the state. Applicants may also contact the main Public Safety office in Juneau, or the State Employment Service office around Alaska.

Candidates for the training must be at least 22 years of age, and have completed a

minimum of two years of high school. They must also pass a physical examination.

Graduates of the course will be offered jobs with municipal law enforcement agencies and correctional institutions, and they will be qualified, upon graduation, to take the entrance tests for the State Troopers.

Hickel said the program, the first in Alaska under the federal "New Careers" program, will be funded with a \$110,391 grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity.

"The state will reap many benefits from this project," the Governor commented. "Our rural citizens will have available a new source of professional training, and many villages which now have no full time public safety protection will gain such protection within this project."

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