

## BIA \$69,800 Fund Support for AVEC

The Alaska Village Electric Cooperative is due to receive a significant boost to its program from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

BIA Area Director, Charles A. Richmond, announced Monday that the Bureau has funded, beginning next July 1, a special \$69,800 package to be used in purchasing wiring materials, for technical help with installation, and to help support the families of village electric operators during a 6-months training period in Anchorage.

The Bureau is one of several contributing agencies in the AVEC program.

Under the AVEC plan, 67 villages are to receive electricity by 1970. Ten villages were tentatively selected last week for initial installation.

On June 1, two trainees from each of these villages will arrive in Anchorage to begin a 6-months course in the operation of the electrical systems. The trainees' families will accompany them to Anchorage for the duration of the training.

\$32,000 of the Indian Affairs funds will be used to purchase wiring materials, and to provide technical assistance with installation. The funds will come from the Bureau's Housing Improvement Program. Technical aspects will be handled through the BIA Branch of Plant Management.

The Bureau's policy is to help those families who can find no other means of paying for the electrical services installation.

Every effort will be made first to see that as many villagers as possible pay their own way, or are helped to find financial arrangements for installation costs.

The Bureau will provide support where other funds are not available, but their primary role will be to provide technical assistance for installation. They look to the individual villagers themselves to help as they can with the initial wiring.

The remaining \$37,800 will be used by the BIA Branch of Employment Assistance to help support trainee families in Anchorage.

The Area Director, Mr. Richmond, said that the Bureau is prepared to assist the sponsoring agencies by linking funds and services in providing transportation, housing and counseling services as needed.

This may include the additional of a vocational education counselor for the Anchorage training session. The Bureau of Indian

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## Hopson Says ASNA Will Not Make Endorsements...

(Continued from page 1)

circles no little when it came out endorsing Mike Gravel, Gov. William A. Egan and Sen. E. L. (Bob) Bartlett. As a result, Gravel came close to wresting the nomination from Congressman Ralph J. Rivers in the primary election.

The present Gov. Walter

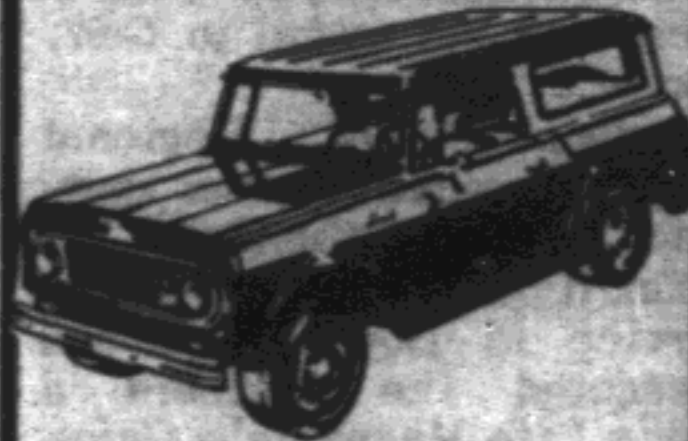
Hickel squeaked past Gov. Egan in the general election the latter having been plagued by the Alaska State Community Action Program troubles that the native people took closely to heart.

ASNA later endorsed present Congressman Howard W. Pollock who won over Rep. Rivers.

Bartlett was re-elected on a ladelide scale.

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