

# Hammond: State, T-H did well for fish shy fishermen

Governor Jay Hammond said today the joint work of the Tlingit and Haida Central Council and his Department of Commerce and Economic

Development has gone a long way to deal with the employment and income problems Southeast Alaska fishermen have faced after a poor season.

As a result of the joint effort, Hammond said, approximately 700 jobs and an estimated \$16 million in materials and wages may be available to stimulate the employment and provide additional income in Southeast Alaska.

Hammond said the joint effort between his Department of Commerce and Economic Development and the Tlingit and Haida Central Council is near completion. The joint effort was requested by the Central Council when it became apparent the 1975 fishing season in Southeast Alaska would be a failure.

A White House meeting on the issue was just completed. Council President Clarence Jackson, Vice President Gilbert Gunderson, staff member Terry Pegues, and Deputy Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development Jim Edenso met earlier this week with Dr. Theodore Marrs, White House Advisor to President Ford.

The Alaska group briefed Marrs on the problem and sought his support in obtaining federal assistance. Edenso said Dr. Marrs promised his personal support to provide federal

assistance and to help cut red tape to get the jobs underway.

A meeting was also held with Senator Ted Stevens. Both promised help to secure funding for the more than 600 identified public works jobs in Southeast Alaska to be funded through the U.S. Department of Labor Manpower Administration.

Additional jobs and wages would be generated by the accelerated approval of three Army Corps of Engineers boat harbor projects in Hoonah, Haines, and Metlakatla valued at about \$12 million.

Hammond said the joint effort in Washington was to accelerate construction of the harbor projects by urging the Office of Management and Budget to begin the projects earlier. In addition, the group urged an acceleration of the funding for many temporary public works jobs throughout Southeast Alaska.

Hammond said the Washington effort to outline the emergency situation and to offer solutions would not have been possible without the survey of fishermen in Southeast Alaska conducted by the Central Council Manpower Division.

The purpose of the survey was to identify projects that were being considered, but had not been implemented. The group sought assistance from Marrs at the White House to speed up the process.

If the projects are funded, it would increase the income opportunities of those in the communities.

The Central Council survey found that the average earnings for fishermen and cannery workers was about \$1,450 for the 1975 fishing season.

Hammond also said the State has responded to the poor fishing season by expediting State projects in those areas experiencing poor fishing

particularly in the Departments of Public Works and Highways.

Hammond thanked the Central Council for their efforts and said, "This is optimistic news from those Southeast Alaska fishermen who have been faced with a difficult year. I am pleased at the apparent success of this joint effort by my Department of Commerce and Economic Development and the Tlingit and Haida Central Council."

"I hope we will hear in the very near future about the federal decision to authorize the funding so the projects may begin."

Council President Jackson said, "I commend the Governor

for the responsiveness of the Administration to the Council's request. I also thank the Governor for the able assistance provided by Deputy Commissioner Edenso."



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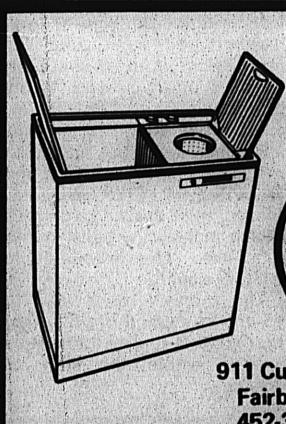
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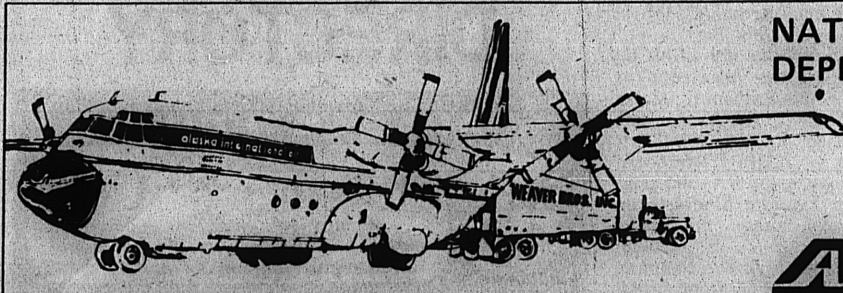
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