

Child Center Pilot Projects

Two pilot projects in Kotzebue and Hoonah are in a process of being established to initiate Parent Child Center program in Alaska.

"The name fits the program well because it will enable parents to work with their children," Rep. Frank See of Hoonah said recently. "The actual purpose of the program is to bring families together where parents will participate in the actual training of the child. For instance, a parent could spend four hours with children each day."

Parent Child Center program was originally organized under the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Last month, Rep. See was called to Washington, D. C. to attend a seminar on PCC at which about a hundred participated. There were welfare workers, social workers, professors, psychologists, doctors and child welfare center personnel from every state.

To fund the two pilot projects, \$175,000 will be divided equally between the two communities. In order to participate in the program Kotzebue and Hoonah will contribute in kind services.

These can be in buildings and volunteer work from the communities.

Kenneth Johnson of the Pacific Lutheran College in Tacoma, Washington, was expected to be in the communities early this month to organize the program.

"The program is not going to be for the poverty people only but it will be for everyone else," said Frank See.

Gruening and Pollock Disagree

In a letter to Rep. Edward A. Garmatz (D-Md.), chairman of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Senator Ernest Gruening last week urged enactment of his bill, S. 292, to authorize use of British Columbia ferries in coordination with the Alaska Ferry System to transport cargo to Southeastern communities of Alaska.

Senator Gruening noted that a review of testimony given on September 28 and statements made by Rep. Howard Pollock (R-Alaska) before the committee indicated a willingness to defer action on the bill pending initiation of the service to Southeast Alaska by Sea-Land Inc.

In his letter, Senator Gruening wrote, "I note, particularly, Congressman Pollock's statement that 'I have no strong feelings about whether we take action immediately on the bill or not.' The senator continued, 'In my opinion it would be a great mistake to delay congressional approval on this legislation which passed the Senate without opposition.'"

The Senator stated that the committee should not be misled by inference that Sea-Land service would have significant competition from use of the British Columbia ferry system or that enactment of S. 292 would have any real effect on Sea-Land service.

Senator Gruening has long championed introduction of competitive and efficient transportation service to Southeast Alaska and has stated that he is "delighted to know that Sea-Land plans to provide service to South-

east Alaska beginning in April, 1968.... It is my intention to encourage Sea-Land's entry into Southeast Alaska in every way possible."

"However," he continued, "the introduction of Sea-Land service has nothing to do with the importance of giving Alaskans the flexibility of service that would be available with the use of the British Columbia ferries in connection with the Alaska state ferries, which would be achieved by enactment of S. 292.... The provision of one service is not an argument for denial of use of the other."

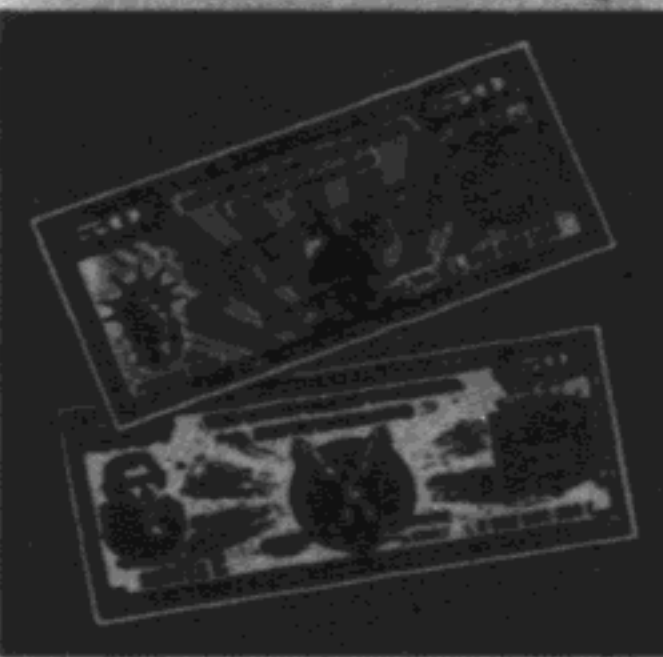
Senator Gruening backed up his views with facts concerning the comparable qualities of the British Columbia ferry system and Sea-Land service:

"First of all the volume of cargo which could be expected to be shipped via ferry is inconsequential in comparison with potential capacity of Sea-Land vessels."

"Beyond the enormous differences in amounts of cargo carried by the ferries as compared with potential Sea-Land operated vessels, it must be emphasized that Sea-Land is a giant transportation company engaged preponderantly in the transportation of freight."

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House Action Approves ACS Bill

The Senate-passed bill, S. 223, authorizing the Department of Defense to sell the Alaska Communications System, last week was approved, with minor amendments, by the House of Representatives.

The amendments were concerned with clarifying the role the Federal Communications Commission would have in advising and ruling on bids to purchase the system. The Senate is expected to accept the House amendments. The bill was introduced by Senator E. L. (Bob) Bartlett (D-Alaska).

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