

Freeze Modification Asked for Airports

JUNEAU—Governor Keith H. Miller's office announced last week that Alaska's Senator Ted Stevens had sent letters to the Chairmen of the United States Senate and House Interior and Insular Affairs Committees urging them to expedite Committee consideration of a proposal by Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel to modify Public Land Order 4582 so that airport leases at Chefornak, Kipnuk and Alakanuk could be issued, and construction begun at those remote sites.

The land in question at the three sites is affected by the Alaska land freeze. Secretary Hickel has pledged that the freeze will remain in effect until the Alaska native land claims issue is settled or until the 91st Congress is adjourned.

At his confirmation hearing, the now Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel agreed not to approve the release of any of the lands covered by the freeze without first getting a review by the Senate and House Interior Committees.

Hickel has written the Committees asking for the modification needed to get the airport construction at the three sites started this season.

In his letter of support, Sen-

ator Stevens wrote, "It is my understanding that the affected Alaska native groups have advised the Department of the Interior that they have no objection to the land being made available for this purpose."

It is my further information that the State of Alaska's Division of Aviation has requested this modification. Owing to peculiarities of Alaskan weather, it is vital that construction begin as soon as possible."

"I would greatly appreciate your cooperation in expediting Committee consideration of this requirement," said Senator Ted Stevens.

Senator Henry Jackson of Washington and Congressman Wayne Aspinall of Colorado are Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees, respectively.

Freeze Modified: Villages Will Get Airports

JUNEAU—Senator Ted Stevens announced this week that the Senate Interior Committee had approved Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel's proposed modification of the existing land freeze.

The modification will permit construction of airports at Chefornak, Alakanuk and Kipnuk, according to the announcement released by the Office of Governor Keith H. Miller.

On May 28, Stevens wrote both the House and Senate Committee chairman and urged that they act quickly so the important airport work could commence as soon as possible.



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SPECIAL ELECTIONS FOR ELECTRIC POWER

JUNEAU—Special elections are scheduled on June 24 for the incorporation of the villages of Shishmaref, Stebbins, White Mountain and Whittier.

The purpose of the election is to create an incorporated fourth class city for each of the villages, the first three, in order that they may participate in the Alaska Village Electrification program.

The voters in each village will elect a five member city council. In addition, the voters in Shishmaref, Stebbins and White Mountain will cast their ballots on the question of a one per cent sales tax.

Eight citizens have filed for candidacy in Shishmaref, while Stebbins has a slate of 14 from which to choose their five-member council. Seven candidates are listed on the ballot in White Mountain, and ten have filed in Whittier.

According to the Alaska Statutes, a fourth class city is a continuing entity and may acquire and hold real and personal prop-

erty needed for the government by the community. The fourth class city may make and change ordinances, rules and regulations and levy and collect a general sales tax.

Included in the powers of the

city council is the provision, not mandatory, to plan for and provide the water, electricity, sewage disposal and fire protection, to make contract and agreements for the city, usually to provide services the city may need.

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