

October 25

RED DODGE WINS CASES

From the Anchorage Daily Times

With past court battles now a memory, construction has begun at Red Dodge Aviation Co., on a \$2 million hangar office, warehouse building at International Airport.

Because of two verdicts in favor of Dodge and his firms, three Lockheed Hercules cargo planes are on order, and are to arrive in November and December to join the two Hercules presently carrying freight to the North Slope for oil operations there.

The start of construction last week came only a month after a U.S. District Court jury returned a verdict in favor of Dodge. In the case, the Federal Aviation Administration had claimed Prudhoe Bay Distributing Co., another of Dodge's firms, was in violation of licensing regulations on 204 flights, and asked that he be fined \$1,000 on each charge.

The FAA charged the firm should have been operating with a commercial carriers license, but the jury held that Dodge's private carrier's license was adequate.

A day before that verdict was

(See REVIEW, next page)

REVIEW . . .

(Continued from Page A-10)

rendered on Sept. 19, a new operating certificate was granted to Red Dodge Aviation Co., by the Alaska Transportation Commission, after an administrative and a public hearing on the issue. Another certificate had been ruled invalid in July.

The suits, Dodge said, had they been successful, "would have ruined us and this (new construction) wouldn't be going on now."

With completion of hangars and the addition of the three Hercules planes, Dodge expects to send a minimum of 20 flights daily to the North Slope from here, Kenai, Whitehorse and Beluga.

The decision to base main operations at Anchorage was made, according to Bert Atwood, Dodge's assistant, to avoid "the gouging in Fairbanks" and excessive labor costs estimated at 60 per cent higher.

Dodge said a free staging area will be available here. It would have cost eight cents a square foot in Fairbanks.

A railroad spur into the staging area, Atwood said, will permit shipments from Houston to be loaded directly aboard planes for transport to the North Slope.

Freight, Dodge said, is expected to include bulk cargo, oil rigs, trucks, chemicals, bulk fuel, engines and other accessories needed on the Slope.

Business, when at full peak following completion of the new facilities, will mean 21 flight crews and 15 loadmasters, along with 40 Lockheed personnel for maintenance of the Hercules planes. The Lockheed crew, Dodge says will be the only repair crew for the planes in the state, basing the crew here will eliminate time consuming and repair shipments to Canada or California, where other Lockheed facilities are available.

Dodge's firm has gone through a strong growth period since May, when operations began in the old Cordova Airlines Hangar at International.

Along with the revamping of the hangar, thousands of dollars were spent to fill the swamp-like area surrounding the terminal. The area eventually will be paved, according to Atwood.

When the new hangar is completed in late December, Atwood said, an executive jet maintenance service will be available in the old hangar.

HOTEL PLANNED

JUNEAU (AP)—Gov. Keith Miller says that advertising will start Monday for competitive bids which could lead to construction of a hotel within walking distance of the Anchorage International Airport Terminal.