

Tries to Restore Thorpe's Olympics Status—

'Sense of the Senate'

WASHINGTON, D.C.— South Dakota Sen. Jim Abourezk is co-sponsoring a "Sense of the Senate" Resolution to restore Olympic status to Jim Thorpe, a noted Sac and Fox Indian athlete.

Abourezk, Chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Subcommittee, said, "One of the most blatant injustices perpetrated against an individual Indian that I know of was to Jim Thorpe.

After winning the decathlon and pentathlon in the Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1912, he was humiliated and stripped of his honors and medals because he played baseball for expenses while

on summer vacation from Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania.

"It is long past time to restore the records of this great American to the 1912 Olympic books. This is the purpose of the resolution I am co-sponsoring with Sen. Quentin Burdick of North Dakota," Abourezk said.

Abourezk noted that Thorpe, who died in 1953, set an all-time record by winning eight gold medals in a single year's Olympic games. Among Thorpe's many honors, he was voted the greatest football player as well as the greatest male athlete of the half century by the Associated Press in

1950.

He was elected to the All-time All-American Football Team and to the All-Time All-Professional Team as a halfback and was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

"Jim Thorpe is a hero to Americans of all races, but he is particularly important to Indian people. I think it is only fair," Abourezk said, "that Thorpe's achievements be restored to the Olympic records."

Senate Resolution 144 is pending in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, chaired by Sen. John Sparkman of Alabama.