

Dorms for Alaska

Senator Ted Stevens said from Washington, D.C. Wednesday that the president's budget contained \$4,900,000 for the construction of regional Bureau of Indian Affairs dormitories at Tok, Ft. Yukon and Dillingham.

Another sum of \$1,250,000 is included in the budget for construction of a dormitory in Fairbanks, Senator Stevens added.

In testimony before the Interior appropriations subcommittee last year Stevens had stressed the need for area schools and dorms in larger villages where students from surrounding communities would attend school and be permitted to return home with some frequency and be close enough for parental visits.

The location of the schools would be geographically and culturally similar to their home so the adjustment of attending school away from their village would be easier.

Stevens said that construction estimates were \$1.8 million for Dillingham, \$1.4 million for Tok and \$1.6 million for Ft. Yukon.

In testimony before the Interior appropriations subcommittee last year, Stevens had asked for an additional \$1.4 million for the Fairbanks BIA dormitory

"Academic facilities had been planned and funded by the people of Alaska" he said, "and the BIA was to build the dormitories, but with escalating costs, the appropriations were not enough."

"This funding will permit an additional 100 students from the 'bush' to reside in an urban area and go to integrated schools," Stevens concluded.