

An Amendment--

\$30 Million for Works Projects

The Senate Appropriations Committee has reported a bill for the Economic Development Administration, which contains an amendment by Alaska's Senator Ted Stevens, adding \$30 million for public works projects

in areas of high unemployment.

The EDA budget estimate had been \$160 million which was \$30 million short of the 1972 budget.

Stevens argued against the decrease in testimony before the committee saying that the cut affects primarily distressed communities and areas that need more—not less—federal grant money to develop ports, skill centers, water systems and industrial parks as focal points for attracting private businesses with jobs and income.

Stevens said he had become a strong supporter of EDA's goals of the great assistance EDA has been to the State of Alaska.

"The entire state except for the capital city of Juneau is eligible for EDA funds because of the tragically high rate of unemployment, running from 15 per cent or more in Fairbanks to as high as 80 per cent in some of our native villages," he said.

Citing examples such as the fishing industry in smaller communities which have benefited by processing plants and cold storage facilities; dock expansion at Kodiak, Cordova, Seward, Seldovia, and Anchorage; industrial parks at Kenai and Anchorage.

Stevens said that the Economic Administration Agency has helped Alaska move forward and more—not less—EDA projects are needed.