

REA officials asked to consider rural Alaska projects

Senator Ted Stevens recently asked questions of R.E.A. officials during Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee Hearings. Stevens said that he had been recently contacted by a number of villages in Alaska in regard to the lack of responsiveness on the part of the R.E.A. to even consider new applications for new electrical co-operatives.

The senator said that they have been repeatedly referred to A.V.E.C., and while A.V.E.C. does, and is quite willing to be of assistance to many of Alaska's villages, there is a strong desire on the part of many cities to

own, or maintain, their own electric co-operative. Stevens asked the officials what R.E.A.'s policies were currently relating to getting electricity to Alaska's rural communities, and are there any changes in the policies anticipated.

Turning to another topic of concern, Stevens asked: "What will the R.E.A.'s attitudes and policies be relating to cable TV developments, under the Rural Telephone Program for many of Alaska's rural cities and towns?" R.E.A. officials will submit written responses to the senator's questions.