

Sen. Bartlett's Handicapped Bill Praised

Congressional legislation introduced by Alaska Sen. E. L. Bartlett insuring that all Federal buildings constructed in the future will be accessible to handicapped persons was hailed today as "a most heartening and long over-due boost to the morale of hundreds of thousands of America's disabled citizens" by Harold Russell, Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Recalling that Alaska was one of the first states to enact legislation to eliminate "architectural barriers" in State-financed buildings, Mr. Russell called upon private business, institutions and all State and local governments to include similar measures in their future building plans.

Mr. Russell said that the Bartlett-Bennett Bill signed recently into law by President Johnson will make "new public buildings accessible to all the public, not just the physically fit."

But he emphasized that "private industry and business, libraries, churches, schools and cultural institutions must follow suit if Americans with significant ambulatory impairments can look forward to leading more normal lives, to regular employment, to supporting their families, to becoming contributing members of their communities, and to maintaining their independence."

Some companies and institutions, Mr. Russell pointed out, have attempted to solve the architectural barrier problem by providing ramps for persons in wheelchairs, by widening doors

(Continued on page 6)

Handicapped . .

(Continued from page 4)

and corridors, by lowering drinking fountains and telephone stands, and by providing restroom facilities that handicapped persons can use.

Other firms and institutions, in their blueprints for new factories and office buildings, have made specific plans to include such conveniences and features "at little or no expense," he asserted. But, Mr. Russell added, "only the surface has been scratched."

"Most public buildings, factories and business offices standing today were constructed when no thought unfortunately was given to the needs of the handicapped," Mr. Russell continued.

"But time and experience have shown the short-sightedness of such planning. And times have changed since these buildings were erected. Today, through rehabilitation, education and training, carried on jointly by government and private facilities and groups, countless thousands of Americans formerly considered 'unemployable' are ably filling jobs in industry, government and business.

"But all this training and education is of limited use if barriers prevent these rehabilitated people from getting to work or from enjoying proper working conditions."

SJC Asks 16 Banquet Seats

Orin R. Stratton, president of the Sheldon Jackson College, Sitka, has requested that 16 reservations for the Tundra Times October 5 banquet be set aside to accomodate the college's

Advisory Board.

Stratton has called the fall meeting of the board to take place during the Alaska Federation of Natives annual conference to be held October

5-6 in Fairbanks.

"My purpose for having the Advisory Board meet in Fairbanks at this time is to provide us with an opportunity to continue our close identification with the Native population of the State," said Stratton.

He said that Sheldon Jackson was founded to meet specifically the educational and spiritual needs of the native Alaskans.

"It has, with long history, been an advocate and educational center for native Alaskans who could for many years not receive an education elsewhere.

"As an accredited two year college Sheldon Jackson today is still concerned about its primary purpose of serving the Alaskan native," said President Stratton.