

Bartlett Raps 'Fiddling' Agency

Sen. E.L. (Bob) Bartlett has taken the federal Food & Drug Administration to task for what he called "fiddling for what he called "fiddling" with the fish protein concentrate program introduced last year in Congress.

The FDA was expected to approve the concentrate, which would act as a food-additive for nutrition in poverty-stricken areas of the world, safe for human consumption last spring. So far, there has been no action.

Bartlett's plan would send the concentrate overseas as part of the Food-for-Peace program of U.S. aid to underdeveloped nations.

The substance is an inexpensive source of protein which, in poor-diet communities, would go a long way in preventing malnutrition.

A secondary measure introduced by the Senator in late 1965 called for the construction of one to five experimental plants for processing the protein concentrate. One of the plants could very well be built in southeastern Alaska, the Senator pointed out.

The plant would use bottom fish for processing, Bartlett said, of the type commonly found in southeastern waters.

Of the concentrate itself, Bartlett pointed out that the National Academy of Science had tested the product and found it "wholesome," but now the only hitch was lack of action from the Food & Drug Administration.