

# **Legislation would reimburse for school construction**

**From Our Juneau Bureau**

House Bill 89 passed out of the Health Education and Social Services (HESS) Committee of the House last week provides that the State shall reimburse school districts within the organized borough, monies paid

for school construction incurred before July 1, 1976 and 90 per cent of their payments after July 1, 1976 for principal and interest in loans and cash paid for construction debts. The original proposal by Sam Cotten, D-Eagle River, was to pay 80 per cent which would cost the state an estimated eleven million dollars for 1978. The state currently reimburses fifty per cent of construction costs for organized borough school districts.

Representative Al Nakak, D-Nome, said that the state should be consistent in payments of this type and proposed that the amounts should be increased to one hundred per cent making amounts received by organized boroughs compatible with the unorganized boroughs.

Questions were raised by committee members that should the state pay 100 percent to the districts, where would the local control lie and where would the boundaries be drawn. The committee discussed "building a fence" around what should be considered basic education and the facilities required to support that program, in relation to reimbursement of construction dollars.