

Hearings on Federal Buildings--

\$71, \$21 Million Bldgs. for Fairbanks, Anchorage

ANCHORAGE - Senator Mike Gravel has announced that the Senate Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds, of which he is chairman, will hold hearings on the new federal buildings planned for Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Hearings in Anchorage will be held on December 6, 1972 at Sidney Lawrence Auditorium. The public hearing in Fairbanks will be held on December 8, 1972 in Wood Center on the campus of the University of Alaska.

These hearings, to be conducted by Senator Gravel, had originally been scheduled for October, but the length of the Congressional session made it impossible for legislators to be absent from Washington for the time needed.

Joining Senator Gravel at the hearings will be Congressman Kenneth Gray, Democrat of Illinois, who is chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds in the House of Representatives.

In addition, other members of the parent Public Works Committees of both houses are expected to travel to Alaska for public sessions.

Further, officials of the General Services Administration of the federal government and representatives of other concerned agencies are expected to attend, according to Senator Gravel.

"These hearings are vitally important for the people of Anchorage and Fairbanks," Senator Gravel said.

"This is their opportunity to state their views on the building - where it should be located, how it should be located, how it should be designed, and what purpose it can serve in the community.

"We will be hearing testimony from officials of the State of Alaska, the city and borough governments, civic leaders and concerned, interested citizens," he added.

The \$71 million building for Anchorage has already been approved by the Congress,

through action by the Public Works Committees of the Senate and the House in the last month

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of the Congressional session.

The building will contain one million square feet.

The building in Fairbanks will cost an estimated \$21 million dollars. Congressional approval is awaiting release of the building's prospectus by the White House.

Senator Gravel has been pressuring the Nixon Administration to release the prospectus by giving careful scrutiny to all federal buildings which come before him as chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

All construction of federal buildings must be approved by his committee.