

Sectarian Colleges May Get U.S. Grants

Proposed legislation allowing recipients of Bureau of Indian Affairs grants to attend sectarian colleges and vocational schools has been introduced by Senators Ernest Gruening and Bob Bartlett.

The bill, S. 876, would repeal that part of the Act of March 2, 1917, which prohibits funds appropriated by Congress from being used for the education of Indian (including Eskimo and Aleut) children in sectarian schools.

In introducing the bill, Senator Gruening said that all recent Federal programs of assistance to such schools

apply to both public and private institutions, as long as proper safeguards are established regarding the separation of church and state.

He felt that the present law placed Indians at a serious disadvantage in preparing themselves for their chosen careers.

The Department of the Interior is aware of the discriminatory nature of the 1917 law, reports Gruening. The department assisted in drafting the new bill and has indicated that it would submit a favorable report to Congress.