

In Housing Role in State—

Sen. Stevens Cites Importance of HUD

Today Senator Ted Stevens announced that a meeting of key importance to the expanding role of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Alaska's housing scene will be held in Anchorage May 5-7 between HUD representatives and the State's housing officials.

This is being held in response to Governor Miller's telegram to Secretary Romney requesting this meeting and is a matter the Senator's office and the Governor's office have been in close touch on.

A key issue will be the integration of Alaska's Remote Housing Program into national HUD programs so its federal as-

sistance will continue at least the funding level provided by its authorizing legislation.

Equally as important, the entire scope of HUD programs and their application in Alaska will be thoroughly reviewed at the 3-day meeting: making these discussions ones of prime importance to Alaskans.

HUD is sending their General Counsel, Sherman Unger. He will be accompanied by Morris Schroder and Charles Edson from their Washington headquarters.

In addition, the HUD region will also be represented. From Alaska, Wally Kubley, the state's Commissioner of Commerce; Robert Schenker, the Executive Director of ASHA; and Claude Millsap, Alaska's FHA Director will be in attendance.

Stevens said, "The department has been most cooperative in working towards this meeting and I feel it is one of critical importance to Alaskans. I feel confident that out of these 3 days of meetings will come a better understanding by HUD officials of Alaska's unique housing problems and the dire need we have for further expansion of their pro-

grams in our state.

"In the case of our Remote Housing Program, it must be continued; but we hope this will be possible by adjustments in the federal guidelines so that rural Alaska will then have access to national programs with far greater resources than it could ever approach under the current special authorization."