

200 Housing Units Approved

WASHINGTON, D.C. Senator Mike Gravel has reported that authorization has been given by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for 200 units of housing for communities in Southeast Alaska. The units are to be constructed under the Indian Housing Program.

Senator Gravel recently urged the Secretary of HUD, George Romney, to give the go-ahead for these and other housing projects planned by the Alaska State Housing Authority.

Senator Gravel had contacted Secretary Romney to urge speedy approval of the following:

150 units of low-rent public housing in Anchorage, of which 100 would be for the elderly.

30 units of low-rent housing for the elderly in Fairbanks, and

289 units of housing to be constructed under the Indian Housing Program in Yakutat, Haines, Hoonah, Angoon, Juneau, Sitka, Wrangell, Craig, Hydaburg, Saxman, Klukwan, and Klawock.

"The authorization for the

200 units in Southeast Alaska shows some progress under the Indian Housing Program in Alaska, progress which is long overdue," Senator Gravel said.

"HUD has failed to approve the full number of units for which it has applications pending. Further, it is considerably behind in its overall plans for the State.

"It was planned that 1200 units of housing would be started each year in Alaska under this program. In the last three years, only 200 units have been started. This means that for the three years, Alaska is 3400 units behind with very little likelihood of getting completely caught up.

"The 200 units just approved are a step in the right direction, but the overall housing shortage in the State is not altered appreciably," he said.

"I will continue to pressure HUD to approve housing in Alaska. The authority has been given by Congress for this work to be done. The only real problem is to persuade the bureaucracies of government to execute what Congress has authorized," Senator Gravel said.