

# Congressman Nick Begich Spearheads \$4.4 Billion Bill Passage

Congressman Nick Begich praised the House passage of the Begich-McFall Accelerated Public Works Impact Program legislation.

The measure, contained in the \$4.4 billion economic development bill, cleared by a 285

to 92 vote. Congressman Nick Begich of Alaska was one of the floor leaders for the bill.

The bill, in part, authorizes \$500 million a year through fiscal 1974 for the immediate job creating Accelerated Public Works Impact Program in areas

where unemployment is significantly above the national average.

Virtually all of Alaska qualifies for such special high impact area assistance.

The APW Impact Program is designed also to assist com-

munities with 80 per cent matching grants to build public facilities such as nursing homes, hospitals, libraries, water and sewer lines.

The APW Impact Program legislation was introduced by Representative Nick Begich (D-

Alaska) and Representative John J. McFall (D-Calif.). In its original form, it would have authorized an increase to \$475 million this year for the APW program.

While under consideration, the House Public Works Committee increased the amount recommended in the Begich-McFall bill to \$500 million per year for this and next year, and included the authorization in the bill passed, amending the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.

During House debate, Representative Begich said, "I would call my colleagues' attention to the section of this bill which is of greatest importance to every economically depressed area, which is the provision for special assistance in "high-impact" areas.

"Under present circumstances, every area in the State of Alaska would qualify for this special assistance, and I can assure you that it is badly needed."