

# Winterization For Bush Homes Asked: Stevens

The Senate Appropriations Committee recently passed the Labor-HEW appropriations bill, including language put in by U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens for winterizing homes in Alaskan villages and for Native mental health.

Under the Stevens language, the committee directs that the Community Services Administration spend at least \$1 million to winterize rural Alaskan homes.

The committee estimates that the majority of low-income families in rural Alaska now spends 50 per cent of their income on fuel during the winter months.

If the home were properly winterized, however, fuel consumption could be cut almost in half, the Stevens report language states.

The National Institute of Mental Health is urged to develop a program aimed at solving mental health problems affecting Native Americans. The report language notes that, while the suicide rate for the nation as a whole is 11.9 per 100,000 by the latest figures, the suicide rate among Alaskan Natives is 35.9 per 100,000.

The Stevens provision states that the committee "is most concerned with the extremely high incidence of mental health problems affecting Native Americans."

The total appropriations approved by the committee for Labor, Health, Education and Welfare is about \$36.3 billion, an increase of about \$300 million over the House allowance.

The bill now goes to the Senate floor for considerations.