

# Bill Would Raise Housing Cost

Alaska Senators Ted Stevens and Mike Gravel have introduced a bill to raise the allowable per unit dwelling cost under the Alaska remote housing program from \$7,500 to \$10,500.

Both senators said they felt

the cost revision was urgently needed to compensate for the increased cost of materials since the programs enactment in 1966.

"This highly important housing program to benefit our Alaska Natives is based on the

principle of maximum owner participation in the construction of the homes, and I believe \$10,500 to build a home in rural Alaska is an incredibly low cost and speaks strongly for the intent of this self-help program," Senator Stevens said.

Senator Gravel stated, "This amendment provides a much more realistic average cost per housing unit ceiling necessary to construct desperately needed housing in Alaska today. It is my hope that such costs may continue to be kept at a minimum in the future so that a maximum number of homes can be built with the \$10 million presently authorized under the program."

The Alaska housing program, funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, received its initial appropriation of funds in FY 1969. Primary responsibility of implementation rests with the Alaska State Housing Authority.