

Bartlett Introduces \$10 Mil. Housing Bill for Villages

Declaring that the situation in Alaska native villages is desperate and no housing program exists which will benefit them, Senator Bartlett last week introduced a bill to authorize a \$10 million program to provide the minimum of adequate housing in villages throughout Alaska.

The measure establishes an average maximum expenditure of \$7,500 a dwelling and provides that the federal government will bear no more than 75 percent of the total cost. Contributions of as much labor and material as possible would come from the residents of the village.

The Housing and Home Finance Agency would contract with the Alaska State Housing Authority to supervise design and construction and on a village-by-village basis, requiring participation by each village.

"That would mean," Senator Bartlett stated, "that each village would have to demonstrate that it wanted to embark on an improvement program and would contribute as much labor and material as possible, thereby lowering costs and involving every resident of the village in the program."

Senator Bartlett advised the Sen-
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Senator Bartlett Introduces Bill for \$10 Million Native Housing Program

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ate of the successful experiment carried out with the \$125,000 grant from the Public Housing Administration for the construction of 27 minimum-sized homes in the village of Grayling.

The Alaska State Housing Authority has estimated that about \$2,500 a dwelling was spent to procure nails, window frames, glass, doors and other items which the villagers could not manufacture themselves.

Senator Bartlett stated that many of the Alaska villages have many of

the characteristics of city ghettos—overcrowded conditions, disease and despair.

"At a time at long last the national conscience has been stirred to correct injustices suffered by minority groups," he stated in the Senate, "the plight of Indians and Eskimos is virtually ignored.

"The federal government has numerous housing programs but none of the programs in existence or proposed is applicable to our native villages. Many villagers do not earn enough money to qualify for government housing. Federal

construction standards are too high for construction costs in Alaska.

"The basic problem is not a need to build handsome, airy structures which might be possible in other

areas of the nation.

"The basic problem is that our native people need warm shelters, and you can't get any more basic than that."