

# HOUSING BILL NEARS PASSAGE

## Banking, Currency Committee Reports Favorably on Bill

Final action on Senator E.L. (Bob) Bartlett's Alaska Native Housing Bill may be coming next week in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The bill, attached to a national omnibus bill, was yesterday reported favorably out of the House Banking and Currency Committee, where it was sent a few days ago after passing the U.S. Senate.

Floor action may take place next week on the legislation, sources indicate.

It is expected that no changes to Bartlett's bill, which was attached as an amendment to the omnibus legislation, will be made in the house.

Bartlett's legislation will provide a \$10 million fund for providing loans and grants

to low-income rural villagers in Alaska. The money itself will probably be administered by the Alaska State Housing Authority.

Present public housing programs in effect are limited in Alaska, Bartlett has said, because of unique Alaska conditions that place homes in bush communities outside regulations of the

(Continued on Page 8)

# Housing Bill . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

programs.

Underground sewer and water systems installed to certain federal specifications are required in many of the programs.

Underground work in Alaska is extremely costly and difficult—in many places impossible — due to permafrost.

Other Alaska problems — the high cost of materials plus costly transportation to places where natural building materials are not found — also place Alaskan villages in a different category from the "Outside."

Bartlett's bill has been hailed as perhaps the most significant legislation ever passed to aid the Alaska Native climb from his present poverty-stricken status.