

Pollock Asks \$1.1 Million for Health Fund

Congressman Howard W. Pollock has recommended in Washington that about \$1.1 million be appropriated to the Indian health Service program in Alaska.

Testifying before the subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies of the House Committee on Appropriations in April, Alaska's Republican Congressman discussed allocations for the prevention of otitis media, the vocational training center at Seward and water and sewer projects at Kotzebue and at Sitka.

One of the largest allocations requested—\$438,000—was for the control and elimination of otitis media, a middle ear disease which results in deafness for about one quarter of those chronically afflicted.

About 35 per cent of the native infant population, Pollock

testified, suffer an average of two episodes of the disease before the age of one year.

Pollock also called for an allocation of about \$100,000 to support a physical rehabilitation program at the Vocational Training Center in Seward.

Concerning the Kotzebue water and sewer project, the Congressman explained that the Indian Health Service has already allocated \$1.5 million for its construction. However, the construction is ahead of schedule and

the available funds have depleted.

If the project has to be suspended temporarily, Pollock said, much of what has been accomplished will be destroyed by the harsh Arctic environment.

He requested a \$500,000 appropriation to enable construction to continue.

In Sitka, the water and sewage system is "completely inadequate," he testified, and needs to be replaced before a major break in the system leads to large scale pollution. He requested

\$100,000 for this purpose.

"At this time," Pollock wrote in a letter to the Tundra Times, "it is difficult to ascertain which or how many of the proposals that I made will be adopted by the Appropriations Committee."