

# House Approves MDTA Trainees Extra Allowances

Representative Ralph J. Rivers (D-Alaska) says that the Manpower Development and Training Act passed recently by the House includes an amendment that will permit additional transportation and subsistence allowance for Alaska trainees.

Under the amendment, supported on the House Floor by Rivers, the Secretary of Labor would be given discretionary authority to provide for a reasonable increase in subsistence and transportation expenses for trainees in non-contiguous States when found necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act.

In urging adoption of the amendment, Rivers pointed out that allowances provided under the Act, though adequate for most of the Nation, were inadequate in Alaska owing to high costs of transportation and the high cost of living. As a result, he said, Alaskans entering the training program have had to assume a substantial financial burden.

The bill itself, which now goes to conference between Representatives of the House and Senate, provides for an extension of the Manpower Development and Training Act for four years, retains full federal financing for the program through June 30, 1966, authorizes an appropriation of Four Hundred Fifty-Four Million Dollars for Fiscal 1966, and provides for carrying on the program thereafter until 1968 with ten-percent State matching.

Rivers said that the amendment permitting additional allowances for Alaska trainees was contained in the Senate version and may be considered adopted.