

Food Stamp Safeguards

The House Agriculture Committee has adopted important safeguards against abuse of the Food Stamp program, Senator Ted Stevens announced today.

"There have been a number of instances in Alaska where young, able-bodied people from the South 48 have been purchasing food with government-issued food stamps," Stevens said.

"Some of these young people are perfectly healthy and able to work, but they have decided to take a vacation, partly at the expense of the American taxpayer," the Alaska Senator commented.

"The House Committee has voted to require all able-bodied adults between 18 and 65 to register with local state employment offices and to accept available employment," Stevens said.

"The work requirement would not apply to mothers with dependent children and no one

would be required to work for less than the federal minimum wage, or for a company which is involved in a labor dispute," the Alaska Senator explained.

"This requirement should restrict food stamps to those who really need them—the unemployed who cannot get work—and will stop some people on a perpetual vacation from living on the taxpayers," Stevens said.