

Social Security Benefits

WASHINGTON D. C. — Senator Mike Gravel tonight reported that the Senate Finance Committee, so which he is a member, has approved legislation to be reported to the entire Senate immediately to raise Social Security benefits by 5-1/2 per cent.

The across the board increase, to cover the increase in the cost of living nationally, will take effect January 1, 1974 and apply to the 1974 calendar year.

Senator Gravel said that the Committee also increased the income guarantee for the aged, blind and disabled under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

This increase, also to take effect in January, will raise the level of guaranteed income from \$130 to \$140 per month for individuals, and from \$195 to \$210 per month for couples.