

Housing Fund Drop Stuns Convention

When President Emil Notti of the Federation of Natives read the telegram from Sen. E. L. (Bob) Bartlett that the House members of the Conference Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives failed to win its approval of the \$1 million for Native Housing Program in Alaska, the federation con-

ferees were stunned into silence.

Considerable preparations for its implementation had been going on in Alaska with optimistic hopes that the \$1 million would be approved.

Although Senator Warren G. Magnuson, chairman of the Independent Offices Approp-

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riations Subcommittee, led a strong fight for it, a fight in which he was supported by fellow senators, the one million dollar appropriation for the Alaska Native Housing program failed to win approval in the conference between the two houses of congress.

House conferees adamantly refused to accept the senators judgment that the Alaska Native Housing Act should be funded this year.

The one million dollar figure, requested by the administration, would have started the unique program for which ten million dollars has been authorized.

The House of Representatives refused to appropriate any money for the program. The senate appropriations committee and later the

senate accepted Senator Bartlett's amendment for one million dollars.

Bartlett was not a conferee but he has learned that Magnuson made an especially vigorous plea for the program, required principally because no federal housing laws could be made applicable in Alaskas remote villages.

Magnuson told the house conferees that perhaps improvement of health conditions among native people would be the biggest gain for better housing.

"If this came before you as a public health measure, you would pass it without argument," he said.

House members of the Conference Committee were unmoved and the senate finally had to recede.