

# Senate committee approves bill to compensate Aleuts

WASHINGTON — The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee last week approved legislation which would compensate Aleuts and Japanese-Americans who were interned during World War II.

"This legislation has been pending in Congress for some time," said Sen. Ted Stevens, a member of the panel. He called the committee action a "significant advance."

The bill would authorize a \$5 million trust fund for the benefit of the Aleut communities affected by the relocation. It also would authorize \$12,000 in restitution for each eligible survivor of the World War II relocation and \$1.4 million as compensation for church property damaged or destroyed during the war.

The legislation, which also authorizes compensation for Japanese-Americans, is based on the recommendations of the commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment.

The commission documented the hardships experienced by the Aleuts, including the poor condition of the facilities where they were relocated and the damage that was done to their homes, churches and personal possessions.

"It is my hope that Congress will act quickly on this legislation, and we will be able to provide compensation to those who were affected by the World War II relocation," Stevens said.

The legislation now faces consideration by the full Senate.