

Pribilofs, Edgecumbe get federal funds

A House-Senate conference committee has approved the 1983 Supplemental Appropriations Bill which contains \$22 million to upgrade and repair Mount Edgecumbe School in Sitka, the full amount requested by Senator Ted Stevens.

Another \$9.35 million is included in the legislation to upgrade and repair the remaining 20 BIA day schools. The bill mandates the transfer of the day schools to the state by June 1985.

Under the legislation, the land comprising the Mount Edgecumbe campus would be

conveyed to the state to facilitate rehabilitation of the facility so that the state could open a four-year boarding school in the fall of 1984.

The bill includes a clarification of the use of the monies appropriated to the state for the upgrade and repair of the day schools, as well as the funds for Mount Edgecumbe. There has been some concern that new construction, if needed to bring the day schools up to standard, may not be a legitimate use of the funds. The current bill states

(Continued on Page Five)

Pribilofs, Edgecumbe get federal funds

(Continued from Page One)
these monies can be used for new construction, if necessary.

"These funds would complete the agreement made by Governor Bill Egan at the time of statehood, that the state of Alaska would assume responsibility for the education of all Alaska students," Stevens said.

"With this bill the state would have the funds and authority to perform a complete renovation of the Mount Edgecumbe School as well as assume the repair and oper-

ation of the remaining day schools," Stevens said.

In another provision of the Supplemental Appropriations Bill, a \$20 million trust fund for the people of the Pribilof Islands would aid in the transition from federal control to self-reliance. The fund is part of an overall agreement between the island people, the federal government and the state of Alaska.

"The fund would help the Pribilof residents develop a bottomfish industry based on

their rich fishing grounds, and would end a long history of federal control of the islands," Stevens said.

Included in the bill is a provision which would alleviate the critical shortage of space in the Sitka National Cemetery by transferring about 1.8 acres of federal land to the Veterans Administration to be used as an addition to the cemetery. Only six burial spaces remain in the current boundaries of the cemetery.

In other actions the Senate

has approved a 1984 funding bill which includes a recommendation for improvements to the Unalaska airport and restores \$10 million to the Alaska Railroad revolving fund.

Under one provision, the Secretary of Transportation would be directed to commit discretionary funds for improvements to the Unalaska-Dutch Harbor airport in the Aleutian Islands.

"Dutch Harbor is the second largest fishing port in the United States," Stevens said.