

Gravel Announces Approval of \$71 Anchorage Federal Bldg.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senator Mike Gravel announced that the Senate Public Works Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds, of which he is chairman, approved \$71 million for the construction of the new federal building in Anchorage.

The Subcommittee met and

approved this authorization by a unanimous vote.

The Alaska Democrat reported that the building will contain one million square feet, at a cost of approximately \$70 per square foot.

This building, when compared to other similar projects around

the Nation, is an enormous investment for Anchorage and our state. It is probably the largest single project the City will see for many years to come," Senator Gravel said.

"The size of the building and its total cost is considerably larger than most buildings being

built for federal government purposes in other parts of the country," the Alaskan continued.

Senator Gravel said that he expects final approval by the full Senate Public Works Committee within a week. He reported that his counterpart in

the House of Representatives, Congressman Ken Gray of Illinois, plans to take the matter before the full Public Works Committee in the House soon.

"I think we can expect final passage by Congress in this session of Congress, probably this month," Senator Gravel said.

"Prompt action will mean that the funds will be authorized for this building when my subcommittee holds hearings in Anchorage on October 13," Senator Gravel said.

The public hearing is scheduled to give citizens of Anchorage, as well as borough and State officials, an opportunity to state their views on the building.

"The input from citizens is important," the Senator said, "to guarantee the maximum possible benefit to Alaska's largest city."

Senator Gravel has urged that the building be designed and located to provide an "anchor" for future Anchorage development.