

Alaska Gets One Fifth of Total Indian Health Funds

The 1968 fiscal year Alaska budget for the Division of Indian Health represents one-fifth of the total for all the states, Director E.S. Rabeau told the Senate Appropriations subcommittee recently.

Dr. Rabeau, who worked

for several years in Alaska, said he is particularly enthusiastic about the community health aide training program that will start in the 1968 fiscal year.

The long-range goal is to have an aide in each Native community. The budget con-

tains \$95,000 for a four-months dietetic course.

A \$100,000 mental health program started last July has treated over 300 patients. Dr. Rabeau testified that an estimated 150 of the patients receiving early treatment in their home communities would have eventually had to be committed.

Plans are now under way, Dr. Rabeau said, to replace with emergency funds the pumphouse at Unalakleet destroyed in the recent fire. The fire did \$60,000 worth of damage to the recirculatory water system there.

Some of the Alaska health items in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare budget include: at Kotzebue, \$167,000 for alterations to the sewage treatment plant, \$80,300 for rehabilitation of the hospital foundation, and \$400,000 for a water line to the hospital, \$80,000 for alternations to the Mount Edgecumbe incinerator \$27,000 for a foundation study for the Bethel hospital; water and waste projects for \$90,000 at New Kolignek, \$130,000 in the Middle Yukon \$100,000 at Saxman, and \$170,000 at King Cove; \$90,000 for community water at Goodnews Bay; and \$60,000 for water collection at Barrow.