

Villagers Look At Omnibus Bill

The Indian Omnibus Bill was looked at closely this week by villagers all over Alaska. Bureau of Indian Affairs officials conducted discussions around the state to get suggestions for changes in the bill.

If passed, the new law would increase economic opportunities and responsibilities for natives.

Suggestions from villages were sent on to Indian Affairs Commissioner Robert Bennett in Wash., D.C. They included many requests for defining the word, reservation, as it would apply to Alaska.

They also requested higher ceilings and longer terms for loans in Alaska, because of high living cost here.

Fairbanks district bankers appeared to reserve judgment on the bills. The big problem

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in Alaska was the shortage of loan funds, they said some were limited as to the type of commercial ventures in which they could participate. Several were not interested in loans for projects more than 100 miles away.