

# Defends Emmonak—

## *Should Have Highest Priority: Begich*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Expressing his concern that to this date the Department of Housing and Urban Development has not acted favorably on the village of Emmonak's request for funds to begin a Neighborhood Facilities Program, Congressman Nick Begich has indicated in a letter to Oscar Pederson, Seattle Administrator of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, that the village's request should receive highest priority in allocating funds.

In his letter, Representative Begich pointed out that Emmonak is in an area of the highest unemployment and lowest income of any redevelopment area in the nation and urged the Department to give Emmonak's request immediate attention.

The Alaska Democrat had learned that the Seattle Regional appropriation is only \$720,000 which is split evenly between

Seattle and Portland.

Congressman Begich noted that the Emmonak application is the only one pending from the State of Alaska and deserves consideration.

"Since Alaska is within the Seattle area appropriation, I think it only proper that it share in that office's allotment of funds," he said.