

New Federal Buildings for Fairbanks and Anchorage Postponed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senator Mike Gravel announced that hearings scheduled for later this month in Anchorage and Fairbanks on new federal buildings in both cities have been postponed.

The reason is that the Congress will be in session at least through October 14 and legislators and staff members are unable to be absent from Washington for the five days the hearings

would require at a time of heavy Congressional work.

The hearings were scheduled for October 11 in Fairbanks, and October 13 in Anchorage. Senator Gravel, who is chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds, said that he plans to reschedule the hearings for sometime later this year or very early in 1973.

The hearings are being held

at Senator Gravel's insistence so that members of each community may participate in the planning for the major federal complexes.

The hearings are open to the public and will focus on the location and design of the structure.

The Anchorage building has been approved by the Congress. The Fairbanks building is awaiting action by the Nixon ad-

ministration, before Congress can act.

Senator Gravel has been pressuring the Administration to release the prospectus for the Fairbanks building so that the Congress can consider it promptly.

Both buildings were originated by Senator Gravel in his subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

The Anchorage building will

contain one million square feet and will be constructed at a cost of \$71 million. It will be the largest and most costly building in the State of Alaska.

The Fairbanks building is estimated at \$21 million and is expected to contain approximately 350,000 square feet.

Senator Gravel feels that the hearings are an important part of the process of constructing the buildings.

"The citizens of Anchorage and Fairbanks have an opportunity in these hearings to determine in advance the impact these buildings will have on their communities," he said.

"The future growth of both cities can be determined by decisions on location and design of these structures. Each building will be a hub for its city. For this reason, decisions should be carefully considered with a wide range of views presented. The hearings will assure that this is done."

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LETTERS
(Continued from page 2)
is oftentimes hampered by mail delays to obtain answers to their questions.

Also, since the "Tundra Times" is read by a great many Native youth, perhaps you might consider publishing articles on the Bureau of Indian Affairs scholarship and other educational programs.

Finally, to substantiate the above information, the following statistics on the twenty or more students who were stranded at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks without funds are offered:

At least five beginning freshmen and three re-students never submitted an application for financial assistance to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

With the exception of two, all the rest had submitted an application for a BIA scholarship grant in August or September, at which time the scholarship grant fund was depleted.

However, the financial needs of all of those students were taken care of by the Bureau from unused scholarship grant funds that were returned to the Bureau.

I sincerely hope that my attempt to clarify how the students became financially stranded at the University of Alaska this fall will generate a desire on the part of all interested persons to extend all possible assistance within their capabilities to prevent a future recurrence of that situation.

Sincerely yours,
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