

Congressman Nick Begich Spearheads \$4.4 Billion Bill Passage

Congressman Nick Begich praised the House passage of the Begich - McFall Accelerated Public Works Impact Program legislation.

The measure, contained in the \$4.4 billion economic development bill, cleared by a 285

to 92 vote. Congressman Nick Begich of Alaska was one of the floor leaders for the bill.

The bill, in part, authorizes \$500 million a year through fiscal 1974 for the immediate job creating Accelerated Public Works Impact Program in areas

where unemployment is significantly above the national average.

Virtually all of Alaska qualifies for such special high impact area assistance.

The APW Impact Program is designed also to assist com-

munities with 80 per cent matching grants to build public facilities such as nursing homes, hospitals, libraries, water and sewer lines.

The APW Impact Program legislation was introduced by Representative Nick Begich (D-

Alaska) and Representative John J. McFall (D-Calif.). In its original form, it would have authorized an increase to \$475 million this year for the APW program.

While under consideration, the House Public Works Committee increased the amount recommended in the Begich-McFall bill to \$500 million per year for this and next year, and included the authorization in the bill passed, amending the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.

During House debate, Representative Begich said, "I would call my colleagues' attention to the section of this bill which is of greatest importance to every economically depressed area, which is the provision for special assistance in "high-impact" areas.

"Under present circumstances, every area in the State of Alaska would qualify for this special assistance, and I can assure you that it is badly needed."

Model Home...

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have to be redirected to prevent a repeat of floods which occurred this summer.

At the tiny village of Kaktovik, due east of Barrow on the Arctic Ocean, land available is either very swampy or located in areas subject to severe drifting snow. The best land is currently held by the Air Force DEWline site.

The village and regional corporation will request a release of a strip of land 300 feet wide adjoining their present townsite, where land is high, fairly well drained and not subject to drifting snow.

Kaktovik villagers have already been relocated once for the convenience of the Air Force, a relative newcomer to this ancient whaling camp. Ironically, the long time occupants of this village are forced to get permission in advance from military authorities to use the DEWline airstrip.

Arrangements will have to be made by the developer to have access to the airstrip, and gravel must be stockpiled during the winter for roadways between homes.

Public Health Service officials are in the process of completing the water storage facility at Wainwright and three track vehicles are en route to handle water delivery and sewage pickup. Any new homes at Wainwright will have to include storage facilities in the design compatible to the PHS hauling system.

Gravel in apparently unlimited quantities is available about half a mile from the village, but electric service by the city would have to be upgraded to provide sufficient capacity for the project.

Wainwright has a small landing strip and there is a DEWline site airport facility seven miles away. Barge service is available during the summer.

Although each village has its problems, there are no major stumbling blocks to housing programs, noted Wilson in his ASHA report.

"The Arctic Slope regional corporation people were most cooperative and appear very willing to do what is necessary to get the job done. Judging from the initial trip, ASHA can rely on them to fulfill their commitment as consultant efficiently and within time limits imposed," he said.

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