

# Congress Urged to Spend \$18 Million For Gross Health Sanitation Deficiencies

Congress was urged last Monday to appropriate \$18 million in fiscal 1968 for construction of water and sanitation facilities in American Indian and Alaskan Native communities so as to correct gross sanitation deficiencies in five to six years.

Dr. Carl Muschenheim, Chairman of the National Committee on Indian Health of the Association on American Indian Affairs, testified before a Senate Subcommittee that the provision of a safe water supply, and facilities for the sanitary disposal of human waste "is the most crucial and far-reaching step which can be taken to eliminate a large residue of illness which continues to plague the Indian and Alaskan Native population but which has long-since been reduced to manageable proportions among the great majority of the United States."

Dr. Muschenheim pointed out that the total backlog need for sanitary facilities on Indian reservations and in Alaskan Native villages is estimated to be at least \$100 million, and said that, "at the present rate of expendi-

ture it will take approximately 10 years to catch up to this backlog."

President Johnson's Indian sanitation construction budget request for fiscal 1968 to correct existing gross deficiencies is \$10,464,000.

Dr. Muschenheim testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations for Interior and Related Agencies (chairman, Senator Carl Hayden, D., Ariz.) during hearings on President Johnson's budget for fiscal 1968 for the Division of Indian Health.

The President's program activity budget for the Division for fiscal 1968 requests \$82,133,000.

In support of a sanitation construction program of the magnitude recommended by the National Committee on Indian Health, Dr. Muschenheim urged an appropriation for fiscal 1968 of \$5,925,000 for field health services.

He also recommended that

the Subcommittee and the Division of Indian Health explore the current status of D.I.H. nurses' salaries to determine whether they are on a competitive level with those of nurses in non-federal institutions.

A fourth recommendation asked the Subcommittee to explore the feasibility of establishing a community transportation system on Indian reservations in support of medical, educational and other community needs.

In pointing out that the lack of a proper water supply

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## Alaska Peninsula Native Assn. Organized by Nine Villages

The Alaska Peninsula Native Association was formally organized last Friday at Perryville in a meeting of representatives from nine peninsula villages.

Officers of the association are: president, Charles Franz of Port Moller; vice-president, Boris Kosbruk of Perryville; secretary, Rudy Anderson of Chignik; treasurer, Elia Phillips of Perryville.

Along with the elected officials, the Board of Directors contains the following incorporators: Paul Gunderson Nelson Lagoon; Nick Shanigin, Ivanoff Bay; Mike Sam, Chignik Lake; John Christianson,

Port Heiden; Micarlo Kalmikoff, Pilot Point; and Tom Alto, Egegik.

The immediate plan of the Association is to encourage membership from the Peninsula and the Aleutian Chain.

Charles Franz has been delegated to represent the association at the next Alaska Federation of Native Associations meeting.

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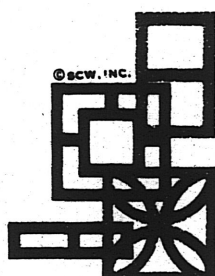
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