

Play the positive

A FINAL SUMMARY

Earthquake Prediction Study Urged In Report by Federal Commission

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19 (AP) — Research on earthquake prediction techniques and studies to assess potential hazards and develop protective measures were

recommended today by a cabinet level federal commission.

A REVIEW of federal disaster relief policies also was proposed by the commission, established by President Johnson to coordinate federal aid activities and reconstruction planning following the Alaska earthquake of last March 27.

The recommendations were contained in a final summary report of the commission, headed by Sen. Clinton P. Anderson, D-N.M., and including the heads of six government departments and five independent executive agencies.

The Alaska earthquake and subsequent tidal waves claimed 115 lives and resulted in damage estimated at about \$311 million, exclusive of personal property and loss of income.

THE COMMISSION estimated federal assistance subsequently provided or authorized for Alaska's reconstruction and future development will amount to \$414 million, including loans, tax refunds and debt forgiveness.

Sen. Anderson cited what he called the unparalleled degree of federal assistance as refutation of any claim that the federal government has grown so large that it cannot function quickly and effectively in a crisis and has become cold to the needs of the American people.

"Even though this aid exceeded any previously provided a disaster-stricken state, the federal government looked beyond the immediate catastrophe toward providing a firm base for rebuilding an even better Alaska—a vigorous economy to match a vigorous spirit," Anderson said in a foreward to the report.

THE REPORT said the approaches used to meet the Alas-

ka disaster "should not necessarily be used as precedents for other disasters."

But it said there should be a prompt review of federal assistance policies and programs for the private sector, including a study of disaster insurance at reasonable costs.

Other recommendations:

Establish a seismic sea-wave warning system for the coastal areas of Alaska. Improve the Honolulu service to predict the magnitude of the wave as well as the time of arrival.

Begin an earthquake hazard study in the U.S. portion of the circum-Pacific seismic belt. Assess hazards in port and mountainous areas subject to potential sliding and development recommendations for protective measures or abandonment.

USE THE Alaska experience to design advanced building codes and zoning plans for seismic areas. Although recognizing what it called the impossibility of avoiding construction in all risk areas, the report said federal policies should not encourage further development in areas regarded by engineers and scientists as particularly hazardous.

Cooperate with Japan and other countries on earthquake-warning devices and methods of relief and reconstruction.