

Coming back--

KAWERAK RESTORED AS SPONSOR FOR CETA

WASHINGTON--Department of Labor plans to restore the Nome-based Kawerak Corp, as a prime sponsor under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. The government action was announced last week by Senator Mike Gravel.

Prime sponsors administer the jobs money distributed under CETA. In Alaska, most prime sponsors are non-profit native corporations.

Kawerak had been denied prime sponsor status a year ago due to financial problems, and the Alaska Federation of Natives was administering the funds on Kawerak's behalf.

Earlier this year, the corporation filed for reorganization in bankruptcy court. Today's decision indicates the Labor Department's acceptance of the reorganization plan.

Johnson said he has been hopeful of receiving the news during his current visit to Washington. He is attending a conference here in which Alaska natives are explaining to Congressional and Administration representatives some of the problems they are having in contracting with the Federal Government.

"This is official recognition of the effort of Kawerak to

rebuild itself from its past problems," John said. "It's a major step for us."

The Kawerak area received \$1,484,992 in CETA funds this year. Only Yupiktak-Bista in Bethel and Tlingit-Haida Central Council in Juneau received more.

Gravel called the decision "very good news" and said, "Kawerak is getting back on its feet. What we've learned in the past and what we're learning from this conference will help avoid future financial problems for the non-profit corporations."