

# ***Sen. Stevens Urges Ford Foundation To Grant AFN***

Alaska Senator Ted Stevens has urged the Ford Foundation to give careful and favorable consideration to a request by the Alaska Federation of Natives for a study grant to be used in connection with the settlement of the land claims issue.

Stevens said the grant would be utilized to hire the expertise of economic and social experts.

"This study is of great importance to the people of my state," Stevens said in a letter to McGeorge Bundy, president of the Ford Foundation. He continued, "it is needed to help the native people of Alaska meet their urgent needs and fully utilize the opportunities that will become available to them during the next decade."

The Alaska Republican noted that legislation presently being

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# **Foundation . . .**

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considered by both the House and Senate in settlement of the Alaska native claims issue provides for a substantial monetary grant to the natives of Alaska.

"The needs of Alaska's native people are so great, and the problems so complex, that expertise is needed to determine what application should be made of these funds as they become available," Stevens said.

He also pointed out that Alaska's emerging natural resources industry will provide an avenue of employment for many of these people and should be an additional consideration in awarding the grant.

"The study proposed is aimed toward defining the most pressing problems of the natives so that the compensation of funds can be put to the best use. Equally important, it would provide the long-range overview in planning necessary to restructure the economic and social systems of the native people to meet their needs," Stevens said.

Stevens also said he was of the opinion that the legislative resolution of the land claims issue would be expedited by the mere fact that such a study is being conducted.