

Alaska Natives Share Revenues

Senator Mike Gravel reported that the Senate has approved an amendment, co-sponsored by him, permitting Alaskan Native Villages to receive an estimated \$2 million in revenue sharing funds.

The amendment offered by Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana, on behalf of Senator Gravel and others, requires that one-fourth of one percent of the funds appropriated for revenue sharing be set aside for "allocation and payment to Indian Tribes, Alaskan Native Villages, bands, groups, pueblos, and communities which perform governmental functions."

"What this means," Senator Gravel said, "is that Native Villages may make direct application for these funds without going through the State or other governmental authority.

Instead they may apply for these special Indian funds to be paid directly to the Native Villages. Furthermore, it increases appreciably the amount of revenue sharing funds coming into Alaska."

According to Senator Gravel, the Indian revenue sharing funds are expected to amount to some \$20 million, to be disbursed on the basis of population.

Since Alaska has roughly one-tenth of the Native or Indian population of the country, its share should be \$2 million.

Under the formula currently being considered in the Senate, the Indian fund will raise the total revenue sharing funds coming into Alaska from \$6.2 million to over \$8 million.

"It is extremely significant," Senator Gravel said, "for the Senate to recognize that agencies other than state and city governments should be eligible for revenue sharing funds.

"The principle behind revenue sharing is that the people in a community are best able to determine how funds should be spent there. This amendment, which I am proud to have co-sponsored, puts that principle into action."