

# Alaska Legal Services Gets Full Funding

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Following his talk yesterday with Senator Gravel (Democrat-Alaska), OEO Director-designate Bert Gallegos agreed to restore full funding for the public legal services program in Alaska.

Senator Gravel contacted the OEO chief when he learned of plans to end the "accelerated funding level" in the State.

In effect, the OEO decision would have meant a reduction in funding levels in Alaska from the existing \$61,000 a month to about \$40,000 a month — a one-third reduction.

"That kind of a reduction would have been irresponsible, callous, and uncalled for," said the Alaska legislator today. "Mr. Gallegos and I discussed the matter yesterday, and he has promised me that he'll restore the so-called Alaska accelerator over the next six months," after which legal services becomes an independent entity, as legislated by Congress last July.

Senator Gravel said that "we cannot afford any reduction whatsoever in Alaska legal services," citing recent increases in Native applications stemming from the Land Claims Settlement Act and rising numbers of cases in Bethel, Sitka, Nome and other areas.

The number of cases in Nome and Sitka have more than doubled during the first six months of this year over the same period in 1973, he said.