

Wendell Kay to Seek AFN Endorsement

Wendell Kay, Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, said in Fairbanks that he will actively seek the native endorsement at the annual convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives in Anchorage, Oct. 15-17.

Talking informally in the Tundra Times office, he added that he would certainly be glad to have the support of both the AFN and of ANPEC, its political arm.

Such an endorsement, he added, will probably bring some backlash, but "I am willing to risk that."

Kay was present at the Tundra Times annual banquet Saturday night and sat at the head table as a representative for Sen. Mike Gravel.

Monday, he criticized his Republican opponent, incumbent Ted Stevens, for publicly announcing at the banquet that he was giving the paper a check for \$500.00.

Kay called the move "crass" and said that Stevens should have given the paper the

check privately. Stevens was not at the banquet but was represented by Mrs. Laura Bergt.

Criticism of Stevens is nothing new to the Kay campaign. He has been shooting with both guns at the Senator, contending that Stevens' nearly three years in the Senate have been unproductive.

Concerning the land claims issue, Kay contends that Stevens let the matter languish in the Senate Interior Committee for 18 months and finally got the bill out too late to get it through Congress before the election.

"I consider this ineffective," Kay stressed.

Kay said also that he would favor improving the Senate bill by increasing the amount of the land settlement to 20-40 million acres.

The Senate bill provides for only 10 million acres.

The politician added that he is still somewhat of an underdog but that he feels very good about the campaign.