

Senate OKs \$300,000 for Native panel

The Senate last week approved \$300,000 to finance a new joint federal-state commission on policies and programs affecting Alaska Natives, according to Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska.

The funds were included in the Fiscal Year 1990 Interior Appropriations bill Wednesday when the Senate approved an amendment offered by Stevens and Sens. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, and Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska.

(Continued on Page Eight)

• Cowper OKs \$300,000

(Continued from Page One)

The legislation also calls for a \$300,000 appropriation from the state of Alaska, Stevens said.

Gov. Steve Cowper will support the state appropriating that amount of money, according to Press Secretary David Ramseur. Ramseur said the governor committed his support for the \$300,000 appropriation last week while he was in Northwestern Alaska.

"In the last 20 years, the federal government has funded many programs intended to improve the lives of Alaska Natives," Stevens said. "Progress has been made on some fronts, while other attempts have not been as successful."

Stevens said the commission would attempt to learn from successes and failures in efforts to provide new solu-

tions to the problems posed by the health, social and economic status of Alaska Natives.

The commission, which would be created under legislation sponsored earlier this month by Stevens, Murkowski and Inouye, would conduct a study of the social and economic status of Alaska Natives and the effectiveness of federal and state programs. After holding public hearings, the commission would be charged with recommending specific actions to help assure Alaska Natives have life opportunities comparable to other Americans.

The recommendations would be due 18 months after the commission's first meeting. The panel would include 14 members, half of whom would be appointed by the president and half by the governor.