

Arts and Crafts—

State Centers for Native Arts

WASHINGTON — Senator Mike Gravel (Democrat-Alaska) has joined a bipartisan effort to establish State centers for American arts and handcrafts.

The Senate bill authorizes \$100,000 a year for the next three years to set up and maintain workshops in Alaska and other eligible states. Total funding would amount to \$5.3 million.

"We are the proud possessors of flourishing artistic communities in many of our Alaskan cities and towns," Senator Gravel said. "It's especially important to preserve our heritage and to encourage the continued devel-

opment of our arts and handcrafts." He singled out Alaska Native skills as a case in point.

"The Native crafts and folklore are rare and beautiful skills," he commented. "This legislation will help to ensure their continuation."

Senator Gravel cosponsored two related bills last year. One would establish a national "Office of American Arts and Handcrafts" and a "National Center" with facilities for craftsmen and for the display and sale of such

works. In addition, it would provide federal assistance to train craftsmen.

The second measure would create an "American Folklife Center", which could make grants and scholarships to individuals or groups, and support research, exhibitions, workshops, and music festivals.

"All these measures have one overall aim — to preserve, support, and encourage American art and folklife," the Senator concluded.