

Kuskokwim Area Eskimos

Support Education Measure

BETHEL, (Special)—Support for Mike Gravel's regional high school package was issued recently from nine Kuskokwim villages it will effect. Gravel's bill is proposing a 300-student boarding house, as well as a regional high school, to serve the Native students of this Kuskokwim delta.

Eight Council Presidents, one past President, and 31 others wrote to support the statewide measure. Most indicated that the central location of Bethel would make it cheaper for students and parents to travel to and from the villages.

Bethel itself jumped on the bandwagon just last week in circulating a petition to the legislature, urging speedy passage and implementation of the bill.

Gravel was acquainted with Bethel's need during his tour with the Legislative Council, at which time the community demonstrated some support for the regional concept. Since then, Ray Christiansen, the local Representative, introduced the initial regional high school bill into the House.

This bill was then incorporated into Gravel's statewide package.

Those urging the legislators to pass the measure were:

Willie M. Wassillie, Pres., Tuntutuliak; Alexi K. Even, Pres., Napaskiak; Irvin Brink, Pres., Kasigluk; Eddie Charles, Pres., Akiak; James Kasayulie, Pres., Platinum; William Lomack, Pres., Akiachak; Henry K. Evon, Pres., Kwigillingok; Nickefer Chris, Pres., Nunapitchak; and Willie Stone, past President of Napaskiak.

Henry K. Evon wrote simply: "We sure want the high school at Bethel, where it will be closer to us. This is what we Eskimo people want."

Others signing the measure, supporting the bill, were: John Enoch, Thomas Charlie, Katy Green, Peter Liepic, Paul Andrew and Peter Wille from Tuntutuliak; Teddy and Peter Clark of Napaskiak; Alexi Pavilla Jr., Nick Marton, Yako Tanker; Nickilai Pavila, and Kilila Slim of Kasigluk;

Frank Demantle, Joseph William, Stephen Ivan, John Phillip, Noah Jackson of Akiak; John Martin Sr. of Platinum; Tommy Phillip, Jesse Ighurak, Evon Zean, Roland Phillip, Frank Andrew, Walter Wallen and Joe Evon of Kwigillingok; Fred Pavilla, Wassille Gillnos, Evan Alexi, Wassillie Zoopeloak and Chuck Chaliak of Nunapitchuk.