

Senator Gravel Initiates Effort To Get New School for Chevak

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Senator Mike Gravel has initiated an effort in the U.S. Senate to obtain more than \$3.5 million dollars to replace a school in Chevak, Alaska, which was totally destroyed by fire recently.

The Alaska Democrat wrote today to Senator Alan Bible, Chairman of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee asking that the funds to replace the school be included in the 1973 Fiscal Year Appropriations Bill for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Appropriations bill is currently being considered by the Subcommittee.

The Chevak school, operated by the BIA, is used by some 150 students.

The BIA has advised Senator Gravel that a new building should include six classrooms, a kindergarten, library or material center, a health room, guest house, office and shop, an all purpose gymnasium, a kitchen and dining room, a three-bedroom house, a generator building, a storage room, a heater room and heating plant.

In addition, funds will be needed to replace destroyed

equipment and to provide for planning and design.

The BIA estimates the cost for this work at \$3,500,000. Senator Gravel told Senator Bible that the BIA does not have the contingency funds available at this time to meet the emergency.

Senator Gravel said: "It is vital that the Congress make available these funds through the 1973 Fiscal year appropriation."

Senator Gravel said that until a new building is constructed the children of Chevak will receive their instruction in a church and a community building.

He said, however, that the accommodations "are not nearly large enough and the quality of education will decline rapidly."

Senator Gravel concluded his letter to Senator Bible as follows:

"On behalf of the children and parents of Chevak, I urge that you consider appropriating the needed funds as soon as possible so that reconstruction of this needed school can begin."