

Gravel Points Out Need For Kalskag School

Senator Mike Gravel of Alaska has urged the Bureau of Indian Affairs to give "priority consideration to the replacement of school buildings, such as the one at Kalskag, Alaska, which do not meet present day safety standards."

In a letter to Associate BIA Commissioner Harold D. Cox, dated July 28, the Senator pointed out that the Kalskag Advisory School Board has complained that its school building does not meet current safety standards.

In response to an earlier inquiry, the Senator said the BIA acknowledged that the Kalskag school is old, is heated by space heaters and has classrooms of substandard size, but does not consider it to be a potential fire hazard.

At the same time, Senator Gravel said he was informed the school eventually will be replaced as part of BIA's long-range construction program.

"However," the Senator said, "I feel the need for safety is of primary and immediate concern, and can hardly be considered under a long-range plan."