

Sam Kito Endorses Senator Gravel

Interior Alaska Native leader Sam Kito Jr. today announced his support for U. S. Senator Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, who is seeking a second term against conservative Republican C. R. Lewis.

Kito cited Gravel's extensive record for support for legislation of vital interest to Alaska and the senator's "keen awareness of the lack of basic means of communication available to rural Alaska.

"Senator Gravel has fought long and hard to see two-way communication systems established between the rural and urban areas of Alaska," said Kito, whose own communications background has included employment at the Kennedy Space Center.

"Gravel is aware of a number of instances where means of communication were desperately needed to save lives and property — and there was just no way to get the message out on time. He knows and he's trying to cut through all the red tape and do something about it, because it is obvious that we have the technology today to provide all areas of Alaska with proper means of communication," Kito said.

Kito noted Gravel's leadership in securing passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, pipeline permits and millions of dollars in badly needed funds for various projects of vital need to Alaskans.

Kito, who is executive president of Doyon, Limited and newly elected president of the Fairbanks Native Association, stated that the Native people have found in Gravel a friend who recognizes the many problems facing the Native community today.

Gravel's opponent, Senator C. R. Lewis, a national leader of

the John Birch Society, has demonstrated by his voting record in the State Senate that he has little concern for the needs of the majority of Alaskans, and especially rural Alaska.

And he has stated that it is essential that Alaska not send a man with such extreme views on the political process to represent all Alaskans.