

# Young, Stevens will fight Reagan budget cuts

by Jim Benedetto

Tundra Times Editor

Two members of the Alaska Congressional delegation, in interviews with *Anchorage Daily News* correspondent Betty Mills, said they would fight to retain programs important to Alaska Natives.

Congressman Don Young and Senator Ted Stevens told Mills that they disagree with Reagan Administration FY-1987 budget recommendations, which would hack large amounts of funding from the Interior Department budget in the State of

Alaska.

"They want to end the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program, but I don't think they'll be able to eliminate it," Young told Mills.

Young was also concerned about Bureau of Land Management (BLM) cuts, since they would slow the process of land transfers and cadastral surveys. Roughly 25 percent of ANCSA lands have yet to be transferred to Native corporations in Alaska due to lack of surveys and other difficulties.

Congressman Young also said that

it was "not necessarily true" that Alaska Natives have become largely independent of the federal government due to the 'prosperity' generated by the land claims act.

Sen. Stevens said "some cuts have gone too far," and predicted the Reagan Administration's planned reductions in programs that benefit Alaska Natives "will be a more difficult battle," though he was quick to point out that Alaska will have to live with some reduction, as will the rest of the nation.