

# Goes to Natives

On Friday, March 31, it was announced in Washington, D.C., that Wildwood Air Force Base will be transferred over to Alaskan Natives as part of the Native Claims Settlement Act.

The announcement came after consultation between AFN president Don Wright, Kenai City Manager Ed Glotfelty, Interior Department officials and Air Force and Kenai Borough officials.

The 4300 acre, \$18 million facility will be used as an educational training complex by the Alaska Federation of Natives in conjunction with the state and the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Alaska senator Mike Gravel confirmed the transfer and also announced that the Economic Development Administration would provide a \$100,000 technical assistance grant to the AFN along with \$25,000 of borough funds to initiate the educational programs.

"This will provide an example for Alaska," Sen. Gravel said, "We had the white community and the Native community working together and all areas are going to benefit from it."

With the Air Force departure scheduled for July 1, 1972, Glotfelty hopes to have the facility in use this fall in the Boarding Home program. It is planned that some 500 students would be able to live at the base, being educated within the Kenai borough school system or in vocational programs conducted right on the base.

Other plans include utilizing housing for Native senior citizens and other buildings to house Native industries and arts and crafts shops.