

EJPEA amendments approved

WASHINGTON—Alaska native groups would qualify as prime sponsors of public service jobs and be assured of funds to carry out such programs, through amendments sponsored by Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska to a bill approved by the Senate Aug. 10.

The Senate passed the Emergency Jobs Program Extension Act of 1976 by a vote of 67 to 11. The legislation would carry out Title Six of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

Gravel, in a statement supporting the legislation, explained that only one of 14 Alaska native organizations providing manpower services met the criteria under the present act.

The Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee accepted Gravel's amendments in its committee bill that expanded the definition of eligible applicants for the program under another section of the act.

Gravel said that to insure adequate funds for native Americans to administer manpower programs under the expanded definition, the committee also agreed to "allow not less than four per cent of available appropriations to be set aside for native American prime sponsors."

The Alaska lawmaker said the amendments would "not only expand the native American population eligible for public service jobs, but they would also reiterate Congressional commitment to the concept of Indian self-determination."