

# Spearheads Effort for 3,500 BIA Scholarships

Senator Ted Stevens is spearheading a bi-partisan effort in the Senate Appropriations Committee to amend the supplemental budget for fiscal year 1973 to provide 3,500 BIA scholarships for Native students, including an additional 290 in Alaska.

Joined by Montoya, D-N.M., and Young, R-N.D., Stevens said that it is now evident that about 3,500 Indian and Native students across the country who have been accepted into college this fall and spring may not be able to continue their education because they come from poor families and must have BIA higher education scholarships in order to afford university training.

The main problem, according to Stevens, is that the next Congress may not be organized in time to consider these supplemental appropriations, which

will mean that the students will not be able to complete the year.

Citing the high cost of education, Stevens said the average Indian and Native family is able to pay only about \$100. annually toward a college education.

The average BIA grant of about \$1,500. for a single student must be supplemented by an additional \$1,000. from other sources such as HEW loans, tribal scholarships, state-aid programs and student contributions from job income.

"Since 1965, the drop-out rate for Indian and Native students has gone from 18 per cent down to 14 per cent," Stevens told the committee, "and we fully expect this pro-

gress to continue.

"Making available scholarships to these 3,500 students would be one of the wisest investments we could make with federal funds," Stevens concluded.