

Bartlett, Pollock, Gravel Set Education Meeting

WASHINGTON—A two-day conference on Native secondary education and the future of the Mt. Edgecumbe Boarding High School has been called by Sen. E.L. (Bob) Bartlett, Rep. Howard W. Pollock and Sen.-elect Mike Gravel.

The conference is scheduled for Dec. 19 and 20 in Sitka. Representatives of Native groups, Gov. Walter J. Hickel, State Commissioner of Education Clifford R. Hartmen, as well as top BIA and Bureau of the Budget officials will be invited.

The decision to call the special conference in Alaska was made at a meeting this week during which Bartlett, Gravel and Pollock discussed with BIA officials the release of \$9.6 mil-

ion already appropriated for rehabilitation of Mt. Edgecumbe.

Earlier this year Bureau of Indian Affairs school officials developed a proposal which would have led to the closure of Mt. Edgecumbe within a few years.

The appropriated Mt. Edgecumbe funds would have been used to begin the regional high school program elsewhere in the state. However, the Bureau of the Budget is reluctant to permit reprogramming of the Mt. Edgecumbe funds.

The primary questions to be discussed at the Sitka conference will be how to use the funds already appropriated for Mt. Edgecumbe, the possible need

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for additional state and federal funds and a review of school facilities, curriculum and the future of Mt. Edgecumbe.

The congressional delegation expects that the conference will also explore the concept of regional high schools, the future of Native education in Alaska and the roles to be played by the state and the BIA.

Vocational education, the boarding home program and the BIA policy of sending Alaska children Outside to high school will also be matters of consideration.