

# BIA Chilocco Brutality Charges Called 'Fabrication' by Gravel

Department of the Interior's charges of brutality to the students of the Chilocco School for Indians leveled against the officials of the school "appear to have been fabricated," according to Sen. Mike Gravel.

"I believe the people who made that report—people with high offices in the BIA—will have to answer some very pointed questions," stated Gravel last weekend in Washington.

Sen. Gravel said that he has contacted Sen. Henry M. Jack-

son, chairman of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, requesting that Sen. Jackson schedule senate hearings to investigate the matter further.

"Sen. Jackson will do so," said Gravel.

Last week, Sen. Gravel visited Chilocco unannounced at the request of Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., chairman of the Indian Affairs Subcommittee.

"I spent 11 hours there talking to everyone I could—students and teachers alike—and found

NO evidence to support a previous BIA report which alleged many cases of brutality suffered by students.

"I have contacted Interior Committee chairman, Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., requesting that he schedule senate hearings to investigate this matter further. Sen. Jackson will do so.

In the absence of Sen. George McGovern, chairman of the Indian Affairs subcommittee, Sen. Mike Gravel this week chaired

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**SEN. GRAVEL AT CHILOCCO**—Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, is seen speaking to the Alaska contingent of the students at the Chilocco School for Indians recently. Sen. Gravel made an unannounced visit to the school to investigate allegations that the students had been subjected to brutality when some of them had been drinking and were punished with handcuffs for long periods. After spending some 11 hours at the

facility, Gravel declared that the charges were false. The allegations were made public by the Department of the Interior not long ago. The report was drafted by Assistant Commissioner of Indian Education Charles Zellers of the Indian Affairs. Sen. Gravel said he would seek an investigation to questions those responsible for the report. About 400 Alaska native students go to Chilocco every year from all parts of Alaska.

## Chilocco . . .

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a hearing in Washington and expressed frustration.

"Here we have a branch of the federal government that has knowledge the children are being beaten and dogs are being set upon them and for six months nothing happened," stated Gravel.

Gravel said either the government is completely unresponsive or the allegations are without foundation.