

*Senate Committee Approves—*

# **ANCSA Omnibus Bill**

The Senate Interior Committee today approved by unanimous voice vote an omnibus bill introduced by U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens and cosponsored by U.S. Sen. Mike Gravel, clarifying and amending the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The bill passed from committee includes the extension of the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission until June 30, 1979; extending the deadline for enrollment under the Act; allowing mergers of village corporations; establishing an escrow fund; allowing benefits under the Act for Klukwan; and providing grants for four villages and seven reserves.

The deadline for the enrollment of Natives who missed the

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# Omnibus . . .

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original March, 1973 deadline has been changed to one year from the enactment of this bill.

The merger provision would allow village corporations in the same region to merge with each other or with their regional corporations.

The escrow fund would be established for revenues received by the Interior Department from activities on lands later given to Natives so the Natives will eventually receive revenues.

Klukwan was held eligible for benefits under the Claims Act.

Juneau, Kenai, Kodiak and Sitka would receive \$250,000 each under the bill to help them carry out their land selection.

Arctic village, Elim, Gambell, Klukwan, Savoonga, Venetie, and Tetlin would get \$100,000 each to assist them in their responsibilities under the Act.

Stevens said he hopes that the Interior Committee will hold hearings in September on other parts of his original ANCSA clarification bill which were not part of this bill.

These provisions include one involving Native claims based on aboriginal title, land selection for Sealaska, and land for Koniag.