

CONVENTIONS: AFN...

Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General, will deliver the keynote speech at the AFN Annual Convention, Oct. 20-22, at the Anchorage Westward Hilton.

Clark, now in private practice in New York City, lobbied on behalf of AFN during the battle for the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. He served as U.S. Attorney General under President Lyndon B. Johnson and is the son of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark.

Ramsey Clark is tentatively scheduled to address the convention at 10:50 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 20.

The theme of this year's convention is "1991." For each of the three days, there will be a separate theme related to 1991. That year marks major changes in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The most significant change to take effect is that

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AFN Convention focuses on 1991 problems

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shareholders in the Native corporations, created by ANCSA, will no longer be prohibited from selling their stock. Other issues include protection of Native lands, stock ownership for Alaska Natives born since 1971 and special benefits for Native Elders.

The theme for the first day of the convention is "1991 - Perspectives." Thursday afternoon, former AFN President Emil Notti will speak on 1991. He will be followed by a panel discussion on 1991 perspectives. The panel will consist of representatives of village and regional corporations, an IRA Village Council, and possibly, someone to give the Congressional perspective. Later in the day, Willie Goodwin, chairman of United Tribes of Alaska, will

speak.

Earlier on Thursday, Anchorage Mayor Tony Knowles and Governor Bill Sheffield will give welcoming addresses.

The theme for Friday, Oct. 21, is "1991 - Meeting the Challenges." For most of the morning, convention delegates will break up into workshops. Senators Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski are tentatively scheduled to address the convention Friday afternoon.

"1991 - Protecting Our Future" is the theme of the final day, Saturday. The delegates will vote on general resolutions for most of the morning, and take up the special resolutions on 1991, in the afternoon. In the afternoon, delegates will elect a new AFN chairman for 1983-84.

In addition to the work-

shops, there will be an information booth set up throughout the convention to address questions about 1991 issues.

Delegates to the convention will be asked to vote on six resolutions prepared by AFN on various 1991 issues. The resolutions address stock alienation, land protection, elders, protection of Native values, stock protection and Natives born since 1971.

Under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Alaska Natives received title to almost 44 million acres of land and about \$965 million. State-chartered regional and village corporations were created to manage the land and that portion of the money that didn't go

directly to Alaska Native individuals. Natives enrolled as shareholders in the corporations.

As a protection for the Native corporations, the act prohibited shareholders from selling or transferring their stock, except by inheritance, for 20 years. Since only those Natives alive when the act was signed received stock, Natives born since then may own stock only by inheritance.

Questions generated by 1991 changes in the act include:

- * Do Natives want to keep the corporations owned and controlled by Natives?

- * Are the protections provided under existing law (in ANCSA and subsequent

amendments) enough?

- * Should Natives born since Dec. 18, 1971 be included as equal shareholders when the corporations issue new stock on Jan. 1, 1992?

- * Are changes in the law needed to protect Native lands?

Evening activities and entertainment are also scheduled throughout the convention. Delegates are selected from each regional corporation, with the number from each region determined by the population. About 1,500 people are expected to attend.

For further information or a detailed agenda, contact: Patty Ginsburg, 274-3611.