

Democratic Convention Backs AFN Land Bill

The 1970 Alaska State Democratic Convention recessed Sunday night in Anchorage after approving a resolution that urged a generous native land settlement "along the lines proposed by the Alaska Federation of Natives," according to a Fairbanks delegate.

Also, the delegates unanimously approved a resolution asking that the Tanacross Indians be given title to their ancestral home at Mansfield Lake.

Furthermore, the Democrats called for extensive, new state programs including low-income housing, educational improvements and protective measures for commercial fisheries and fishermen.

They urged that a "definite timetable" be set for the withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam, the delegate said.

The convention plans to meet again in April to fully discuss party reorganization.

The contests for party officers were close and noisy, which convention chairman Dr. Fred McGinnis observed seems to be traditional for Democrats, the delegate said.

The election for State chairman was narrowly won on a second ballot by Cliff Warren from Anchorage. He defeated Felix Toner of Juneau.

According to the delegate, outgoing state chairman Rep. Willie Hensley first announced his candidacy for re-election, then reserved himself and withdrew.

His delegation, the spokesman continued, united under him and Sen. Robert Blodgett of Teller, to support Warren in an unusual Northwest-Southcentral coalition.

Warren is a painting contractor and co-founder of the liberal Democrats for Issues and Action.

His opponent, Toner, had

gained support from the Central District through the intervention of Mrs. Vide Bartlett, the delegate explained.

Still resolved to elect a southeasterner to a major party office following Toner's defeat, the Central District joined with Toner's Southeastern support and splinter south central votes to elect Russel Brown of Ketchikan First Vice President.

Brown defeated Sen. Blodgett on the second ballot after an 80-80 vote.

The other officers were chosen by unanimous ballots: Valda McMahon of Fairbanks—Second Vice-Chairman and Rose Duley of Wasilla, Secretary.