

Stung Once Too Often—

Eklutna No Longer Releasing Lands

Eklutna, a small Indian village just north of Anchorage, has passed a resolution stating that it will no longer release any of its land to the Greater Anchorage Area Borough, the state, or the federal government until the land claims issue has been settled to the satisfaction of the Native people.

The Natives of Eklutna, the resolution stated, have on numerous occasions granted easements, rights-of-way, acreage, and free access for the use of its lands to various agencies of the federal government, the territorial and state government, the Greater Anchorage Area Borough and the United States Army.

On none of these occasions, have the Native people of Eklutna received consideration of compensation for such taking of its land.

In giving their reasons for the resolution, the villagers cited their support for the land claims position of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

As stated in the resolution, the Village of Eklutna is in agree-

ment with the AFN that the land freeze not be lifted until the land claims of the Native people of Alaska have been justly and equitably resolved by joint participation of both the state and federal governments.

According to T.G. Bingham of the Bureau of Land Management office in Anchorage, the Eklutna natives have filed two protests: one in October of 1966 for 390,000 acres and one in December of 1966 for 23,000 acres.

The BLM records, he said, show that the village has made four releases subject to no effect on the Natives rights to any compensation from the Federal government.

The releases are: 1. for a five acre homesite existing prior to their protest 2. 320 acres for State selection for further development of the Arctic Ski Bowl 3. for an electric transmission line right-of-way 4. 117 acres for State selection for local school construction. The first three releases were granted in 1967 with the last one being granted in 1968.