

Ten regions attend AFN board meeting in Anchorage

Ten of the twelve regional corporations made it to the Alaska Federation of Natives Board of Directors meeting in Anchorage last Thursday and Friday. Only Calista Corp., which was having its own board meeting, and the Aleut Corp., were not in attendance. The Aleut Corp. is reportedly involved in a dispute with the board over the payment of dues.

A large portion of the meeting was taken up by executive session. The press is excluded, and no official records are kept, of executive sessions. Behind closed doors, the board discussed the Aleut situation, the AFN presidency, allocation of funds to develop a technical position on oil and gas, and the 90-day land selection preference recently granted the State of Alaska.

The board seated two new members. They are Jerome Trigg of Bering Straits Native Corp., replacing Tom Drake, and Emil Notti, of Doyon, Ltd., replacing Sam Kito.

The board also elected new officers. They are: Emil Notti, chairman; Richard Janson,

Chugach Natives, Inc. vice-chairman; Roy Huhndorf, Cook Inlet Region, Inc., secretary; and Jack Wick, Koniag, Inc., treasurer.

The board also discussed the development of a statewide Native position on the classification of federal lands, and heard a report by John Borbridge, commissioner of the American Indian Policy Review Commission and a member of the board from Sealaska Corp. The commission is drafting a report which may be the basis of new federal legislation affecting Native people.

Another item discussed by the board was the apparent failure of the State of Alaska to make payments into the Alaska Native Fund. Borbridge said Sealaska had discovered "several deficiencies in the payments." What made matters worse, he added, "was the fact that we were not advised."

The board directed President Sam Kito to seek an appropriation from the State of Alaska for the Alaska Native Fund by asking the governor to include the payment for this year and last year in the next budget.