

AFN, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS HOLD MEET

Agenda Items Include Continuing Discussion Of Thirteenth Region

The Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. Board of Directors met on Thursday, June 26 in Anchorage. Main agenda items included continuing discussion of the 13th Region, pending legislation relating to the amendments to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (Omnibus Bill), FY 1976 Budget, Section 7(i) meeting, and other topics.

AFN, Inc. has maintained and reaffirmed its position concerning the 13th Region—that all enrollees and potential enrollees be given an immediate option whether they wish to be in or out of the 13th Region, rather than the 3-year option that Congressman Meeds proposes.

Mr. Kito announced that AFN filed and has been granted a dismissal on the appeal in the AFNI suit. The Aleut Corporation is pursuing the suit.

A position was taken by the board on the Edwardsen v Morton case. This case had originally been a provision in the Omnibus legislation and has now been removed.

The stand the board has taken is that the case be allowed to reach resolution through litigation in view of the fact that it is currently in the courts. In the event that this does not occur, AFN should seek to see that it be resolved apart from the pending amendments to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act which are incorporated into the Omnibus Bill.

A meeting with Senator Ted Stevens is scheduled for June 28

with representatives of the regions attending. Discussion will center around the Edwardsen v Morton case and the pending Omnibus Bill. Mark-up on the Omnibus legislation is expected to take place after the summer recess.

A resolution directed toward the Congress of the United States and to the Bureau of Indian Affairs concerning the inadequate staffing and inadequate funding in the Alaska Native Enrollment office.

A concern was expressed by the board that this lack of proper funding hampers the regions because they are unable to receive up to date computer print-outs with current enrollment data.

A Section 7(i) meeting will be coordinated by the AFN staff to be held in Anchorage on Aug. 6 and 7. Section 7(i) is one of the more controversial issues in ANSCA that needs to be addressed.

The board will send an expression of remembrance to the Stan McCutcheon family in recognition of the work in initiating early land claims pursuit.

The next meeting will be held in Copper Center on July 24, 1975.