

Land Provision in Bill Not Enough Says Kay

Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, Wendell Kay, said in Fairbanks Saturday that he "heartily approves" of the proposed land claims bill "with one exception—it is not generous enough in the amount of land that would be granted."

Speaking at an informal press conference, the State Representative also voiced opposition to the fact that a large portion of the land grant would be made with surface rights only.

Recently reported out of the Senate Interior Committee and awaiting action by the full Senate, the bill would provide 500,000 acres, with surface rights only, to the North Slope natives in recognition of the fact that they need larger areas of land for subsistence.

The Arctic Slope Native Association has strongly criticized the fact that no mineral acreage was included in this provision.

The statewide land grant provides for a maximum of about 10 million acres: 5.9 million in village land grants, 600,000 in individual grants, 2 million in timber lands, one million for hardship lands, and 500,000 acres for the North Slope Eskimos.

Kay said he thought that the land grants ought to be increased to a minimum of 20 million acres.

"I think that the land is very important," the Anchorage resident said, "and the natives have a right to be treated generously."

Opposing State Senator Joe Josephson in the Democratic primary the last of August, Kay said that businessmen in the State should be interested in a generous settlement.

"Think what it would mean to businessmen if everyone in the villages was brought into the full economic mainstream" and their living standards were raised.

Concerning the refusal of a House-Senate Conference committee to release over \$7 million dollars to the Tlingit and Haida Indians without approval of the Interior Secretary, Kay said that the traditional paternalistic attitude toward the natives should be replaced by an attitude of "let's let them do it for themselves."

Alaska's aboriginal people ought to be permitted to become full fledged citizens in fact and in name, he added.

Also, the politician said that the State should rapidly begin providing many of the services now provided by the federal government.

It should continue to take over the Bureau of Indian Affairs

schools and the Public Health Service, he stressed.

When asked where services needed in the rural areas stand on a priority list compared to a road to the North Slope, he said that there is no question of priority.

"The human priority takes precedence," he stressed. "Obviously, a question of improving living conditions in rural Alaska should be a matter of top priority."

"Rather," he continued, "it is basically a question of how rapidly the state can prepare itself to move into these areas of need."

The State representative said that he would like to see TAPS pay the price of building a haul road to the North Slope with the State paying additional cost the necessary to bring the road up to secondary highway standards—which he estimated to run from \$30 to \$40 million.

He added that the possibility of the State building the pipeline might be a good investment for the State.

However, he stressed, that the matter is something that the State ought to have 25-30 experts study from all angles, not something the State ought to rush into.

Kay said that he plans to carry his campaign to the bush. Running on the Republican ticket for the Senate seat will be U.S. Senator Ted Stevens of Anchorage and Fritz Singer of Auke Bay.