

STATE LAND BILL DUE FOR CHANGES IN HOUSE

By KEN REED

The State Native Land Claims Bill, HB 672, is due on the floor of the House of Representatives in a new form. The House Finance Committee will propose fundamental changes in the bill, putting a 50 year or \$50 million maximum on money that native groups could receive from the state.

The House Finance Committee substitute is also expected to limit the proposed 5 percent royalty payments only to "lands to be developed in the future," not making payments on lands which the state now receives revenues.

The bill will also require that native groups immediately set aside lands which will be lifted by the Secretary of Interior from the current

federal "land freeze." The lands must be lifted by the Secretary of the Interior by October 10, 1968.

Governor Walter Hicken called this 50 year or \$50 million maximum a "liberal and realistic settlement on the state's part. The bill has a price tag on it, and if the state is willing to share \$50 million, then the federal government has an obligation of many times that amount."

Representatives from the native groups felt that these terms were "rock bottom" limits which they could accept.

Rep. Willie Hensley (D-Kotzebue) said the "bill has very little chance of passage if it doesn't correspond to the original draft of the Task Force and the state's view. The State and Federal Governments will attempt to let as little money go to the natives as possible. This precedent has already been set by other legislatures in

other states."

John Sackett (R-Huslia) said he was "unsure that the native groups would accept the bill, and the time is running out. The reason that there will be changes in the bill is that there will be a lot of opposition by members of metropolitan areas."

"It's just something that is finally coming out into the open. There is a distinct backlash for aiding people in rural areas," Sackett said. "Not all of the backlash is from the legislators themselves, but it also comes from their constituents."

"The main concern is with the six month clause," Sackett said. "If we can get 40 million acres proposed by the federal government put into a temporary withdrawal within 6 months, we will be in good condition."

"We definitely need state assistance of approximately \$100,000 for technical assistance to help the

Division of Lands in sending people to rural areas to withdraw lands. It will take money that the natives do not have," Sackett said.

Mike Bradner (D-Fairbanks) said, "The main point of contention is coming from urban Republicans on the 5 per cent royalty money."

Everybody must face the fact that the guts of the bill will be shaped by the governor, the chairman of Finance Committee, Attorney General Boyko, and a few other key people."

"The problem is that people are not looking to the

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Rare Disease Causes Bone Operation on Tiny Eskimo Girl

Doctors call it "congenital pseudoarthrosis of the tibia," but to three-year-old Patricia Beavers it's a crooked leg which makes walking nearly impossible.

Hopes are high at Alaska Native Medical Center now, however, that meticulous bone graft surgery performed on Patricia will alleviate the rare condition for which there is no known cure.

Using a new technique developed in the Netherlands, U.S. Public Health orthopedic surgeons in Anchorage took little plates of bone from Patricia's mother's leg and also some from the child's own hip.

These, varying in length from .2 to 6 centimeters, were placed about a metal rod to shape a strong support in the shin area of the child's leg.

Because growth occurs at top and bottom of a bone, this is a feasible strengthen-

ing method.

Patricia, a granddaughter of the late state Senator William E. Beltz, will be in a cast for many months and may even need more surgery.

But considering that the old treatment for such a disease was amputation, Patricia's parents, Carol and Lewis Beavers of Anchorage, feel it is indeed worth the present discomfort.

Mrs. Beavers is an aide at Alaska Psychiatric Institute and she feels her work there has given her insight on how to help Patricia deal with her long hospitalization.

Only 200 cases of this disease are reported in the world's medical literature. The malady affects the leg bone in such a way that it seems unable to heal and a false joint is formed.

Bone in the shin region resorbs and disappears, making the leg bend at an odd angle. Doctors have tried two other measures to get Patricia's bone to heal, but these were unsuccessful.

It is not yet known what causes the condition, but it is not limited to any ethnic or geographical group. In Patricia's case, a familial condition known as Recklinghausen's disease (neurofibromatosis) from her father's family may contribute to the child's particular problem.

Congenital anomalies tend to occur in clusters, according to the doctors.



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