

# CNI needs your help

As much as we realize that the editorial space of this column has been devoted to the problems being faced by the Chugach peoples we feel that this is one of the most pressing problems facing all the Native peoples of Alaska.

It has been said time and time again that it has been 10 years since the passage of ANSCA and Chugach has yet to receive the first acre of the 378,000 acres of land that Congress decided Chugach people were entitled to.

For the past year, a special study group has been researching, debating and arguing the relative value and quality of individual parcels of land which Chugach or others think should be conveyed to CNI.

For many reasons, the study group has been unable to agree on anything, much less on a total, well-balanced, well-thought out proposal. And the matter of who is to blame for that inability is fast becoming a moot point.

The fact of the matter is that the issue now appears headed for a Congressional determination and that determination will be made by people who have little concept about the realities of life in Alaska.

They will need all the help and encouragement they can get and for that your help is needed. The leaders of every Native corporation have testified that the Chugach the promise of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will not have been met if Chugach does not get its land. Corporations have passed numerous resolutions of support for CNI.

It is now time for the Native peoples of Alaska to get together to write, telegram or call their elected representatives or President Ronald Reagan to support CNI in its fight to get a fair and just settlement of the ANSCA promise.

It doesn't take long to write a letter. That letter doesn't even have to say any more than "Give Chugach Natives Inc., its fair and just settlement." But each letter helps more than you might think.

Our Congressional delegation, as is pointed out in the letter to the editor on this page, has been very helpful to Native Alaskans. They can be more effective when bolstered by letters from constituents.

To write to Sen. Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski, send letters to the United States Senate, 260 Russell Building, Washington D.C., 20510. To write to U.S. Rep. Don Young, send letters to 2331 Rayburn Building, Washington D.C., 20515.

And to let President Reagan know how you feel, write to the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C., 20500.

And do it soon. The president has to make a recommendation to Congress on Dec. 2. So, if you wait another day, you may be too late to help CNI.