

Udall Gives Outline for Claims Bill

The major points of the Interior Department's Native claims legislation were revealed this week in a meeting of Interior Department officials with State officials and Native leaders.

They are:

To grant title to Native villages for land now occupied by their residents and for surroundings areas, not to exceed 50,000 acres.

To grant 25-year permits for surface rights on further land for hunting, fishing and trapping, with the exact areas to be determined by the Interior Department.

To set up procedures for taking the claims to the Court of Claims for monetary claims on land outside that granted to the villages. An 1867 date would be established as the jurisdictional basis for these claims.

The Native leaders at the talks were Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, and Willie Hensley, State

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Representative from Kotzebue. talk on the claims issue.

The two had not been invited to the previously-scheduled meetings, but flew to Washington this week to present the opinions of the Native people. Before they left Alaska, both men expressed concern that the Native people had not been consulted when the legislation was being prepared.

The trip was financed by donations from AFN members and sympathizers. The officers of the Kuskokwim Valley Native Association have also promised financial help, and declared unanimous support for the trip.

On their trip, Notti and Hensley took a "kalak-tuk," or messenger stick, to present to President Johnson to show their willingness to

The kalak-tuk was used by Eskimos in the Bering Sea and Kuskokwim area to carry the message that various tribes were ready to trade. It is over 1,000 years old and is carved of mastodon ivory.

Interior Department officials at the talks were Secretary Stewart Udall and Undersecretary Charles Luce, the author of the proposed legislation.

Alaskan officials meeting with Udall and Luce were Governor Walter Hickel, Senators Bob Bartlett and Ernest Gruening, Representative Howard Pollock, Attorney General Donald Burr and the State's special counsel on the Native land claims, Edgar Boyko.