

# Senate Committee Progresses On Claims Bill Says Jackson

The Senate Interior Committee is "making continued progress," according to its chairman Henry M. Jackson.

Speaking after a secret meeting Tuesday, Jackson said that no agreement had been reached on granting the Alaskan Natives \$500 million.

Jackson said that there is the question of whether the government should pay the income

taxes on this or should pay the Natives interest on the unpaid balance and how many years the government should have to pay the full amount.

The chairman said that the committee has not discussed the question of oil royalties as yet and has not considered a billion dollar settlement as had been reported. An earlier account said that a proposal had been intro-

duced calling for a \$500 million payment, and up to \$500 in mineral royalties.

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel has voiced opposition to an overriding royalty and to large grants of land. He supports a cash compensation of \$500 million over a 20-year period and grants of 15 million acres of land.