

# ASNA CONSIDERS BIG BOROUGH

## Hopson Tells Counsel Consult Barrow-Kobuk Election Districts

Even before the native land claims settlement in Congress, the native people and their leaders and counsels are beginning to feel the pinch fully expecting Congress may award the native people relatively small areas of land than what they thought was fair to them.

The Arctic Slope Native Association with headquarters at Barrow seems to be spearheading a movement that some native areas form boroughs as a means of having a certain amount of control over their lands especially where subsistence living areas are concerned.

Seattle attorney, Fred Paul, has been encouraging the officers of the ASNA, of which he is counsel, to decide that the Arctic area group form a borough.

"Please be advised that I would like to proceed immediately with the creation of a borough up there and would like to have some direction from you as to what areas we should invite in with us," stated Paul earlier this month.

For at least two months, the officers of ASNA, communicated with Fred Paul regarding the formation of a borough.

"The more I think about the prospect of an organized borough the more I begin to agree with you, that this is perhaps the only way we can have some assurance of control..." Hopson told Paul.

Hopson said that some Nome area native leaders were also considering forming a borough in the Seward Peninsula area.

"If I had my way at all," Eben Hopson pointed out, "I would strongly suggest that we invite the Kotzebue Sound area villages now."

"Speaking of boundaries," Hopson continued, "this would include the old, or the present Barrow-Kobuk election district, which is one House District, with

( Continued on page 6 )

# Arctic Slope Considers Big Borough . . .

(Continued from page 1)

one addition, that of Barter Island and perhaps extending from the Canadian border and west along the Brooks Range."

The present native thinking stems from the strong indication of the congressional members the

seemingly impressive respect they have for the Federal Field Committee for Development in Alaska recommendations for settlement of the native land claims.

The committee recommended a large money settlement and

relatively small areas of land.

"The Federal Field Committee envisions two systems," Fred Paul told ASNA. "The first is that the Alaska Native Development Corporation will have sufficient cash and political strength that it can through the legislature give you some assistance, remembering that conceivably the Alaska Native Development Corporation can have cash in hand within ten years of more than one billion dollars."

"But I do not believe we should put all our eggs in one basket."

Paul said that the second system that was available to ASNA

was the creation of a borough.

He said that in an informal talk with Joseph Fitzgerald, chairman of the Federal Field Committee in Alaska, Fitzgerald thought that the natural alignment of such a borough would be: Barrow, Kobuk and Nome election Districts.

"The value of the borough is that it can control zoning," concluded Paul. "Thus the borough could pass a resolution forbidding commercial development in certain areas, the areas you need for your subsistence living."

"Such a resolution would have the force of law and no development could be effected therein."