

MUCH DONE SAYS NOTTI

Obtaining Interior Secretary Walter Hickel's pledge to continue the land "freeze" and having Senator Henry Jackson's promise to push claim legislation this year were the most important achievements of the AFN delegation in Washington, according to Emil Notti, AFN President.

The "freeze" will continue through December, 1970, unless land claims legislation is enacted earlier.

Notti said the delegation would not have been sent if the

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pledge could have been obtained by the time of the February meeting of the AFN Board of Directors.

Since it was not, the Board ordered the delegation to go. He said Senator Jackson's sympathetic response and assurance of early action was an unexpected development.

Notti said another important achievement of the group was that of focusing national attention upon the claims issue. Notti himself appeared on national television; and with Willie Hensley, John Borbridge, and Eben Hopson gave numerous press interviews to the Washington Post, The New York Times, and others.

Extended meetings by the delegation with ranking members of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee have acquainted those members with the basis of Native claims, the forms of settlement, and the urgency of action, Notti said.