

# Possibility of ASNA Legal Action Remains

Eben Hopson, executive director of the Arctic Slope Native Association, stated Monday that organization would refuse to grant a waiver to the Trans Alaska Pipeline System to lands claimed by ASNA.

In telegrams to Chairman Wayne Aspinall, House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; Senator Henry Jackson, Chairman of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; and Secretary of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel, Hopson said, "Newspapers indicate you are considering lifting the land freeze for the pipeline right of way and stipulations have been issued to protect our lands.

"These are our lands. We refuse to waive our rights to these lands unless and until we are assured of protection and consulted of the stipulations mentioned."

In late September, the Arctic Slope Native Association requested Interior Secretary Hickel, as guardian of American aboriginal tribes, to eject the State of Alaska and its lessees from the North Slope and lands claimed by ASNA.

ASNA represents some four thousand Eskimos living on Alaska's Arctic North Slope. It is widely believed that unless the Interior Secretary Hickel and the State become responsive to the demands of North Slope Eskimos, ASNA may begin legal action to protect rights to the lands which they claim.

(Editor's Note: The story and pipeline stipulations are printed on page 2).