

# Conservationists—

## *Strong Push by Groups May Snag Bill*

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As a super fast land claims bill was reported out of the Senate Interior Committee last week the House Interior Committee is still marking up its bill—expected to be out sometime next week.

The bill has come under strong attack from various sides in the House. On their first day of markup session last Wednesday, the committee rejected an

amendment offered by Rep. Joseph P. Vigorito, (D-Pa.) which would reduce the land grant contained in the House bill from 40 million to 10 million acres.

Other Representatives are opposed to any legislation at all. Rep. John P. Saylor, R-Pa., the ranking Republican on the Interior panel called the bill a "sad cry for the American taxpayers" in his opposition to the legislation.

Another dispute which may

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# Conservationists Might Snag Bill ...

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challenge the land claim legislation is a move by conservationist forces in Congress to push for a comprehensive land use plan as a prerequisite for all state and Native land claims selections.

Supporters of the land claims bill fear the conservationists may have a great deal of strength on the floor of the House when the bill is reported out.

Development of a comprehensive land use plan would effectively freeze all land in Alaska for another five years—until such a plan is developed. This would allow environmentalists to probably prevent lea-

ses necessary for a trans Alaskan pipeline and other major projects.

The Senate Interior bill which was reported out on Wednesday included provisions for a joint federal-state land use planning commission with jurisdiction over all selected land and for a transportation and recreation corridor.

Meanwhile, as widely differing proposals become included in various land claims bill debate centers around the various bills' main provisions. Differences between House and Senate versions, which must be ironed out before any land claims bill is finally enacted.

In the main provisions of cash, revenue sharing, distribution, regional corporations and the all important land, the two pending bills are as follows:

The bill reported out by the Senate Interior Committee last week provides for a cash appropriation of \$500 million in land claims money over 12 years without interest. It also provides for a 2 per cent royalty upon leasable minerals, not including T/A lands, also not including the

September 1969 bonuses—up to \$500 million.

The Senate bill provides two land options. Number one would award 40 million acres in fee. Option number two would award 50 million acres 24 million in fee, 6 million in surface title and 20 million under a revocable permit system. Under this plan, native people would vote on which option they would accept.

Seven regional corporations, under the Senate bill, would administer the funds, but individual villages would choose their land and maintain title as village corporations.

Under the bill reported out by the House Interior Affairs Subcommittee, Alaskan natives would receive \$425 million over 10 years—without interest. They would receive a 2 per cent royalty on leasable minerals, not including TA'd land, up to \$500 million.

The House subcommittee bill would award 40 million acres of land in fee title. This would include up to 20 million acres around villages awarded before state selection, the rest after.

The House subcommittee bill would recognize 12 Regional Corporations who would have control over part of the land, the money and leasible minerals in their area.