

State/Federal Land Use Plan Under Attack

Sen. Willie Hensley and Rep. Frank Ferguson, both of Kotzebue, have taken serious objection to the exclusion of Native representation on the joint state/Federal land use planning program for 200 million acres of Arctic Alaska recently announced by Gov. Egan.

Rep. Ferguson and Sen Hensley feel that the 200 million acre study of land resources and their potential uses should provide for direct input by members of the Arctic Slope Native Association and the Northwest Alaska Native Association.

These organizations presently

(Continued on Page 6)

Land Use Plan . .

(Continued from page 1)

claim approximately 100 million acres on behalf of the Eskimo people in the Arctic and would be the largest private land holders in the proposed study area following enactment of the native claims bill.

The two Kotzebue legislators have sought information about the proposed study since September but were provided only a meager and meaningless responses.

Commissioner Chuck Herbert of the Department of Natural Resources did indicate that "the study team recognizes the fact that it is simply ridiculous to make meaningful studies without having participation from the people who live in the area..."

Sen. Hensley and Rep. Ferguson urge the Governor to seriously consider the recommendation of Commissioner Herbert and allow the Eskimo people to directly participate in the planning that will affect the use and occupation of land they have utilized and owned for centuries.