

AFN Board To Meet Apr. 27-28

The Alaska Federation of Natives' president, Emil Notti, has called a board of directors meeting of the organization in Anchorage on April 27-28.

The board will consider the recent events concerning native land claims, among them the Alaska State Legislature's passing of the bill 672.

The bill passed the House by a vote of 39 to 1, while the Senate went into the record by passing by 16 to 4.

"This record clearly signifies the unanimous support of all Alaska in our effort to resolve the land issue on the federal level," said Don Wright in his letter of invitation to the AFN board.

Don Wright is the first vice president of the organization.

Wright also included in his invitation the pertinent excerpts from President Lyndon Johnson's message to the Congress about the status of the American Indians.

Included in these is the President's call to Congress for early action on the native land claims in Alaska and his recommendations that

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AFN Board . . .

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read as follows:

-Give the native people of Alaska title to the lands they occupy and need to sustain their villages.

-Give them rights to use additional lands and water for hunting, trapping and fishing to maintain their traditional way of life, if they so choose.

-Award them compensation commensurate with the value of any lands taken from them.

Wright also enclosed resolutions supporting the land claims by National Congress of American Indians and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation.

The NCAI's executive council declared unanimous support to the Senate Bill 2906 and House Bill 15049, and called for fair and just settlement of land claims in Alaska in behalf of all Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts.

The resolution further resolved that the NCAI president urge President Johnson that every effort be made to insure passage of the bill during the current 90th Congress.

The CSKT resolution also called for passage of both the Senate and House bills.

"The Tribal Council believes that the passage of the bill would be in the best interest of the natives of Alaska and Indian people everywhere..." the council declared.

In his call to the AFN board, Wright said, "We must act now! The big job is yet to come!"

He said he urged every member of the board of directors to attend the meeting called by President Notti.

"We cannot afford to pass up this opportunity for success in our mutual endeavor," said Wright.

There may be an oversight in the plans of the meeting date. The Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska has plans to meet in Juneau on April 25-26-27.

This will overlap into the first day of the meeting of AFN board on April 27.