

Claims Bill May See Tougher Road In House: Miller

Governor Keith H. Miller told the Tundra Times Wednesday that the native land claims bill may encounter some difficulty in passing the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I feel that the Senate will approve a land claims settlement in this session," Miller said, "but the going will probably be somewhat tougher in the House. It is probable that the appropriate House Committee will hold hearings this summer, possibly in Alaska."

The Governor indicated that progress would be made, although it may take the form of cautious exploration. "We must deal with the issue a stage at a time; progress will be made this year," he said.

Miller was also asked, in reference to his meeting with the NORTH Commission in Washington, D.C., whether the proposed railroad into northern Alaska would reach Kobuk.

Describing the Kobuk termination as a distinct possibility, Miller said, "When Kennicott had an active operation in the area, the Kobuk line was a first priority matter."

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DISCUSSING CLAIMS—Sen. Ted Stevens, center, is discussing native land claims in his Washington office with Emil Notti, right, and Jay Greenfield, member of the attorney team of the Arthur Goldberg law firm in New York. Emil Notti is the president of the Alaska Federation of Natives who, along with State Rep. William Hensley, John Borbridge, State Rep. John Sackett, Mrs. Laura Bergt, Flore Lakanof and others was in Washington to testify at the land claims hearings

conducted by Sen. Henry M. Jackson, chairman of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, who introduced the land bill S.1830 based on the recommendations of the Federal Field Committee. The hearing was reported to have gone well. Jay Greenfield is assisting his boss, Justice Arthur J. Goldberg, who had consented to be the chief counsel for the AFN during the land claims legislation in Congress.

Claims Bill . . .

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"Now, however, since the North Slope will most likely begin producing before the Ken-nicott had an active operation is reactivated," Miller stated, "the North Slope link must be the first priority, but the Kobuk link in our plans."

The Governor also reaffirmed his intent to succeed himself as governor by running for the office in the 1970 election. "I said in my very first press conference that I would seek re-election," Miller said.