

Progress on Formal Document To Retain Arthur J. Goldberg

Significant progress was made by the Alaska Federation of Natives negotiation to retain Justice Arthur Goldberg as General counsel in meetings in Washington, D.C. on April 18-19.

John Borbridge, Jr., first vice president, Eben Hopson, and State Rep. Willie Hensley.

The document was discussed with the solicitor and deputy solicitor of the Department of the Interior on April 21, at which time hoped that a prompt review and decision by the department were expressed.

The intentions of the contract are as follows:

(a) To formalize the role of Justice Goldberg as the general counsel in heading efforts of the Alaska natives in seeking a just settlement of the land rights issue through the U.S. Congress.

(b) To preserve existing lawyer-client relationships between regional associations and attorneys who have served or are now serving an organization.

(c) To insure that justice is achieved for native people.

The proposed contract is being examined by native leaders and various attorneys and will

require further agreement by the principles (Alaska Natives) as part of the procedures.

The three-man committee, granted explicit authority by the AFN Board of Directors,

journeyed to New York City to meet with representatives of the Ford Foundation to discuss the need for a grant that would address itself to the vast and com-

(Continued on page 6)

PROGRESS IN RETAINING ARTHUR GOLDBERG . . .

(continued from page 1)

plex post-settlement issues that will confront Alaska's Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts following the conclusion of our land rights efforts.

Robert R. Nathan, president of Robert R. Nathan Associates of Washington, D.C., conferred with the AFN delegation and subsequently submitted a grant on behalf of the organization to the Ford Foundation.

Hearings relative to the latest Alaska native land claims bill S.1830, were held in Washington, D.C. on April 29 by Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

The bill was drafted by the Department of Interior at the request of Senator Jackson, who had directed that the Federal Field Committee recommendations be developed into legislative bill form.

The position of the AFN regarding S.1830 were:

(a) Present version of S.1830 will require both major substantives and technical amendments before it is acceptable to the Alaska natives.

(b) The Federal Field Committee proposals require analysis by competent expertise who can then advise the AFN spokesmen.

(c) Comprehensive, in depth, comments of S.1830 by the AFN were decidedly premature at a time when negotiations with Justice Goldberg were still proceeding. Such a position will be developed shortly.

Justice Goldberg will act as counsel for the AFN while the contract is formalized.

President Emil Notti, 1st vice president, John Borbridge, Jr., and Justice Goldberg testified before the Senate Committee on behalf of the AFN.

The AFN Executive or steering committee consisting of Emil Notti, John Borbridge, Jr., Eben Hopson, Willie Hensley, and Flore Lekanof conferred with Justice Goldberg and his staff in New York City, at which time tactics for the future and analysis of the hearings were discussed.

Preparations are under way to enable staff attorneys to meet with the committee and other native leaders and lawyers in Anchorage.

On May 4, 1st vice president John Borbridge, Jr. joined Sen.

Mike Gravel, Sen. Ted Stevens, and Congressman Howard Pollock on a panel on the Alaska native land rights titled, "Alaska: America's Last Chance," at the annual meeting of the Association on American Indian Affairs.

The meeting was held at the Hotel Commodore in New York City, moderated by Roger Ernst, president of the Association and former Assistant Secretary of the Interior and resulted in keen interest of the efforts by Alaska natives to achieve an equitable settlement.

John Borbridge then returned to Washington, D.C., in his capacity as President of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska where he met with Economic Development Administration officials before returning to Anchorage.

Congressman Wayne Aspinall of Colorado, chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee has scheduled hearings on the Alaska native

land rights May 27-28 at which time is contemplated that government witnesses will testify in greater detail of S.1830.

"Congressman Aspinall is to be commended on the decision to schedule the hearings," said Borbridge. "We hope that the House committee will come to Alaska this summer."