



HOW IT LOOKS IN WASHINGTON—AFN Board members receive a rundown of how native land claims legislation is faring in Congress at this point in the session. Attorney Kenneth Bass

(right) explains possibilities as AFN vice president Phillip Guy (left) and president Don Wright listen intently.

Photo by MADELYN SHULMAN

## AFN Pres. Berates Board Members

AFN President Don Wright Saturday angrily berated board members whom he said were telling people the AFN will support less than 60 million acres in a land claims settlement.

According to Wright, several

AFN members have told the press or written letters saying a 60 million acre settlement was a bargaining position and something they had no expectation of achieving.

"If you want 60 million acres

we'll fight for it—win, lose or draw but don't make me ask Senators and Congressmen to support us if our own people don't," Wright told the Board.

Wright cited letters to Senators from prominent AFN members which said they were not "naive enough to want 40 million acres and the people will be satisfied with 17 million acres."

He said a letter from John Borbridge written last year thanking the Senate for passing its 10 million acre land claims bill has been thrown in his face repeatedly.

"We stand on the Harris-Kennedy bill," explained AFN counsel Ken Bass, but it is a tough fight. Bass explained the dif-

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ference between what his firm will ask for their clients and what they get.

"We will fight to the utmost for the group's position," explained Bass, "and then help draft whatever settlement comes out of the House and Senate committees.

Attorneys, he said, do this for any client who wants something from Congress. His job is to draft the most favorable bill to his client, within terms specified by the Senate House Committee.

There is a distinct difference between advocacy and report, said Bass. While his firm will push for 60 million acres, he said, they constantly report back to the AFN Board the estimates they make of what Congress will give.

"When Ramsey Clark says he doesn't think we can get more than 10 million acres," Bass said, "that's his estimate of the feeling of the committee. It can change but evaluations like that must be made all the time."