

Bill by Weekend?

The Senate Interior and Insular Committee is expected to reach a final decision on a land claims settlement bill by the end of this week, according to a Washington attorney working with the Alaska Federation of Natives.

The committee, headed by Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., is holding closed sessions Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, he said.

In these sessions, the members will make all the substantive decisions.

Then, he added, the proposal will be turned over to staff members who will write it up. So, the bill will probably not be made public until sometime next week.

The specifics of the legislative settlement are still a secret but some general outlines have been reported.

According to these reports, the natives seem certain to receive a \$500 million cash compensation.

Also, they will probably receive between six and ten million acres—which could be in a variety of forms.

The most controversial issue is whether natives should receive a 2 per cent overriding royalty from oil and gas leases on federal and state lands.

Alaska Senator Mike Gravel has indicated that he would vote for a 2 per cent royalty for 10 years or until the natives had received \$500 million. Senator Ted Stevens has indicated that he does not support the royalty idea.