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Compensation bill for Aleuts delayed 1 week

by Steve Pilkington
for the Tundra Times

The Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Restitution Act, a bill aimed at compensating Alaska Natives for their internment in camps during World War II, was scheduled to go before Congress last week, but instead was delayed because a quorum could not be reached.

The bill has now been scheduled to appear before Congress at the end of this week.

In spite of the delay, Alaska Native officials supporting the act say they are optimistic.

"I have every feeling that the bill will pass this year," said Agafon Krukoff, president of The Aleut Corp.

The final draft language has been approved, he said.

If passed, the bill would compensate not only surviving Alaska Natives interned or born in the camps, but would also compensate the communities affected by the war.

During the war, Aleuts living on Aleutian Islands were taken from their homes and interned in camps in Southeastern Alaska. Many of them died during their internment, as a result of the conditions in the camps.

When some of the Aleuts were returned to their homes at the end of the war, they found that their villages had been looted by the American soldiers who used them, including their homes and churches.

Compensation provided by the bill would be in four separate categories:

- Every eligible Aleut would receive \$12,000.

- There would be a \$5 million fund created for the benefit of the six Aleut communities affected during the war.

- A \$1.4 million fund would be provided to compensate affected Aleut villages for church property lost, damaged or destroyed during the war.

- \$15 million would be paid to The Aleut Corp. in lieu of regaining Attu Island, which is now in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge system.

Regardless of the delay, Krukoff

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Andrew Gronholdt is from Sand Point, which is celebrating its 100th birthday Aug. 15-23. He is holding a reproduction of an Aleut hat. See story page six.

Interior details land exchange with Natives

by Steve Pilkington
for the Tundra Times

Hundreds of thousands of acres of valuable habitat lands in Alaska have been offered by six Alaska Native groups in exchange for subsurface acreage in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The land trade would involve 891,000 acres of land within National Wildlife Refuges, owned by the Alaska Native corporations, in exchange for 166,000 acres of subsurface lands in ANWR.

The trade will be on a value-for-value basis, instead of the acre-for-acre exchanges, which in the past have sometimes resulted in unequal values in land trades, according to Department of Interior officials.

"We're not engaged in any sort of giveaway," Assistant Interior Secretary Bill Horn said in an Interior briefing last week.

The negotiations between the corporations and Interior, conducted mostly in private through the past two years, have been seen by many as an attempt to convince Congress to open ANWR to oil companies for drilling.

Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., a key congressman opposed to the trade, has said that the negotiations for the trade were "unauthorized."

Legally, Interior could have completed the exchange without consulting Congress, Horn said, but the department wanted "to get the type of im-

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Mallott re-elected

Byron I. Mallott of Yakutat has been re-elected chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corp., and Oral E. Freeman has been re-elected vice-chairman.

The election of officers, required annually by the corporation's bylaws, took place at a meeting earlier this month in Fairbanks.

Mallott was first appointed to the Permanent Fund Board by Gov. Jay Hammond in August 1982 and then re-appointed by Gov. Bill Sheffield in July 1986. Other members of the board include John Kelsey, Marc Langland, Hugh Malone and Grace Schaible.



1991 legislation remains stalled in Senate committee

by Steve Pilkington
for the Tundra Times

Senate Energy and Resources Committee members met last week with members of Alaska Native organizations in an attempt to settle negotiations which have stalled progress the 1991 legislation.

The House version of the bill, HR278, was introduced by Congressman Don Young and passed the House on March 31 by unanimous consent. A similar bill, S1145, however, has been stalled in the Senate.

According to the Alaska Federation

of Natives, three key issues are delaying the bill under the Senate committee headed by Sen. Frank Murkowski.

The issues deal with sovereignty, the handling of rights of shareholders who want to sell their stock even if their corporation decides to continue restrictions and the way regional corporations continue restrictions.

"What we're working on is Sen. Murkowski," said George Irvin, executive vice-president for AFN. "primarily to get Murkowski to agree on the three principle issues."

Irvin also said last week that if no

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