

Borbridge Speaks to Commonwealth Club

By MARIE BONIFANT

John Borbridge, first vice-president of the Alaska Federation of Natives and president-general manager of the Tlingit and Haida Central Council, appeared before the Commonwealth Club at a luncheon at Sheraton Palace in San Francisco, March 27.

Borbridge told the attending, "Our native culture can contribute a great deal to our society. We need it and you need it. The Alaska native seeks to retain a continuing share of the fruit of the land. The problem must be resolved by Congressional action. It's not so much asking for land to be given us, rather a reaffirming of land that is ours."

Judging by the questions posed to Borbridge, the members of the club were aware of native and oil problems. The audience was made up of business and pro-

fessional men who expressed interest over fishing and hunting rights, oil, villages in Alaska, native development, and how well the natives work together.

The speaking engagement was well received by the Commonwealth Club. Before luncheon, Borbridge was interviewed for Channel 7. The talk was recorded and will be broadcast over a network of 28 stations in Washington, Oregon, and California.

Recently, President Nixon and George Pompidou of France have been invited to speak before the Commonwealth Club.