

Publicity on Allotments Shows Discrepancies

The July 11 issue of the Tundra Times contained an article on the procedure for claiming native allotments. The story said that native allotments can be filed on unappropriated public lands and included in procedure for making claims on these allotments.

This article is based upon information which has been provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to natives who wish to file on such lands. The Fairbanks office of the Bureau of Land Management has informed the Tundra Times that the story is in error.

The "super freeze" ordered by former Interior Secretary Udall in December of 1968 to protect land claimed by Alaskan

Natives pending congressional action also prohibits natives from filing allotments.

The BLM said that claims on allotments are being rejected by their offices. The Tundra Times has also learned that, although applications will be accepted for consideration after the freeze is lifted, the state will be granted 90 days in which to make its selection of land.

In other words, the state will have priority over all other parties, including natives.

Bob Krumm, manager for the BLM, Fairbanks District, said the article might mislead the native people at the present time because allotments can not be awarded while the land freeze exists.