

House, Senate Hearings

Chiefs' Conference

Hearings on the Alaska Native Land Claims have been set for both Senate and House committees for early next week. Congressman Wayne Aspinall, Chairman of the House Interior Committee has set land hearings for August 4 and 5.

During the House hearings, beginning Monday, the Interior Department is expected to present its position. State officials and native leaders are also expected to testify.

Hearings before the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee will be held on Wednesday. Native leaders, mostly comprised from the Steering Committee of the Alaska Federation of Natives, as well as state and Interior Department officials will present their positions.

The Tundra Times has learned that Congressman Howard Pollock has requested the Alaska Federation of Natives to present their legislative draft, as it has been prepared by native leaders and legal counsel.

Alaska Native leaders are reportedly disturbed by recent press coverage which stated that AFN has presented a new claims position. The leaders say that there have been no significant changes in AFN position since it was formulated in May.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference met in executive session Sunday, reportedly to discuss the granting of a waiver to oil interests for the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

Members of that group indicate that, although the possibility of the waiver and other alternatives were heavily discussed, no immediate announcement can be expected.

Five villages would be directly affected if such a waiver were to be granted. Current plans call for

the pipeline to cross lands claimed by the villages of Allakaket, Bettles, Minto, Rampart, and Stevens Village.

Other items on the agenda included a presentation made by the Land Claims Committee of the Fairbanks Native Association. A number of recommendations were made which currently are under consideration by the Tanana Chiefs Executive Board.

The member villages of the chiefs Conference were urged to

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prepare the village rolls and send them to Tanana Chiefs President Alfred Ketzler. The rolls are required as soon as possible, so that the Tanana Chiefs Conference will have an updated survey of its membership.

Discussion also included a review of the position paper prepared by the Alaska Federation of Natives on the land claims settlement. The position paper was universally acclaimed as an excellent document and truly representative of Alaska Native opinion.

Chief Andrew Isaac told the assembly of his answer to a question presented to him by a national press figure, Mike Wallace of CBS News. Chief Isaac said that Wallace asked him if he thought the settlement asked for by Alaska Natives is too large.

To this, Chief Isaac replied, "It is big money for white people. It is not too big for me."

He that is not handsome at twenty, nor strong at thirty, nor rich at forty, nor wise at fifty, will never be handsome, strong, rich, or wise.

—HERBERT