

# 12 Regional Corporations Take Exception to Morton's Decision on 'Late Filers'

## Lang Sends Wire to Interior Secretary Protesting Subject



**Roger Lang**

Roger Lang, President of the Alaska Federation of Natives, has sent a telegram to Rogers C.B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior stating that all 12 of the Regional Corporations take strong exception to the Secretary's recent decision declaring all late enrollment filers ineligible.

Mr. Lang stated, "There are many people being denied their benefits because of the decision made to take no action on behalf of the late filers and who are eligible under the Alaska Land Claims Settlement Act.

"There are methods available to the Secretary of Interior to entitle those that filed late for enrollment rather than to simply deny their existence by refusing to open the roll for their inclusion.

"The Department of Interior is vested with the ability to make

administrative decisions to adjust the roll and make individual transfers of Natives.

"This process is continuing today in other matters concerning the final roll for Alaska Natives to deny late filers a process for participation prior to final certification of the roll is an arbitrary decision which we cannot abide by."

He then suggested that Secretary Morton meet with the Regional Corporations to ask for time and to reconsider this decision.