

\$70 Million Land Claims Payment in the Offing

Commissioner of Indian Affairs Morris Thompson announced that more than \$70,000,000 would go to the Alaska Native Regional Corporations under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Sept. 30, as a regular quarterly regional distribution.

This brings the total amount of money distributed to the Regional Corporations, since December 1973 when the distribution began, to \$209,000,000.

The Sept. 30 distribution includes \$70,000,000 appropriat-

ed by the Congress of the United States as specified in the Act and \$845,261.89 paid into the fund by BLM and the State of Alaska — representing a share of mineral royalties.

The distribution is based upon the number of Natives enrolled in each Regional Corporation. The latest enrollment statistics have been used to compute the payment.

The total amount to be distributed under the Act is \$962,000,000 of which \$500,000,000

will be from mineral royalties from BLM and the State of Alaska. The length of time required to make the full payment will depend on how fast royalties build up. The \$462,500,000 is being appropriated from the U.S. Treasury.

The Regional Corporations will disburse money to Alaska Native villages and individual Natives who are members of corporations. There are now 76,526 names on the roll of Natives entitled to share under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement.

The net payment to the Regional Corporations will be:

Ahtna — \$1,144,042.67;
Aleut — \$3,119,880.09; Arctic
Slope — \$3,626,927.69; Bering
Straits — \$6,337,622.22; Bristol
Bay — \$5,039,532.30; Calista —
\$12,160,166.21; Chugach — \$1,
936,304.20; Cook Inlet — \$5,
847,567.25; Doyon — \$8,254,
727.85; Koniag — \$3,270,861.
03; Nana — \$4,505,205.21; and
Sealaska — \$15,602,427.17;
Total — \$70,845,261.89.