

# Tlingit - Haida Council meets

Rising costs and reduced budgets were the problems faced by Southeastern Natives this past year and will be the problems that must be surmounted this year,

Raymond E. Paddock Jr., president of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska, told delegates to the 15th annual meeting in Sitka.

The annual meeting began Thursday morning and will continue through Saturday night. Paddock, in a prepared statement, said inflation and governmental budget cuts are the most serious problems faced by the Southeastern group.

Paddock pointed to rising electric rates in many small communities as one of the most serious examples of the problem. Rates have gone from 17 cents per kilowatt hour a year ago to 25 cents at present, and could well go higher, Paddock said.

Paddock said one of the highest priorities of his group will have to be to find alternative sources of power in order to cut dependence on diesel generators and the continuing soaring price of diesel fuel. He said investigations into various types of turbine generation, fuel cells, and mini-hydroelectric generation have already started.

Overall earnings of the council's various investments have increased, Paddock said. But, the costs of running the council also have increased. And, he pointed out that even though the investment record for the tribal trust fund has been good, the return still lags behind inflation.

Paddock called also for increased unity among all Alaska Native organizations and more communication between village corporations and other groups.