

# Fairbanks NAACP Backs Claims

The Fairbanks Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People went on record this week in support of the Native land claims.

In a general membership meeting Sunday the association urged "all parties thereto to proceed, with haste, to appropriate, by whatever means necessary, monies and land title to erase this blot of shame from the conscience of the American people."

When accepting title to Alaska

from the Russians, the resolution read, the United States did not allot land or title provisions to the original owners as was later done with immigrant settlers on unclaimed government lands who filed suit or claims to lands upon which they had worked and derived their sustenance.

By virtue of the same statutes, the association said, the aboriginal peoples of the State of Alaska should have had title to lands now claimed or disposed

of by the Federal Government.

Also, by the same statutes, the natives should receive restitution for the lands taken from them.

The Native peoples of Alaska, by virtue of their citizenship, have the right to lay claims to lands to the State of Alaska and the U.S. government, the association said.

For these reasons, the Fairbanks Branch voted to support the Native land claims as filed.