

What others say...

Write letters to your Congressmen

Dear Readers:

The ANCSA 1991 amendments are moving quite fast through Congress. HB 199 and SB 306 are going to be analyzed and studied by a House/Senate Conference Committee that will be formed. If the amendments pass this committee then it can go to President Reagan to either veto or approve them.

It is time to write your letters to Congress if you approve or object to these amendments.

I have written to my corporation, Sealaska, concerning the State-Chartered Registered Settlement Trust Fund Option that Sealaska Corp. proposed during the 1987 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention. The following questions are the ones I asked of my corporation:

By putting the land in a registered settlement trust fund, is this going to be a state chartered settlement trust fund subject to the conditions set up by the State of Alaska, and is there a state act in place to enable Sealaska and other regional corporations to do this? Could the state change that trust or revoke that trust at any time? Do the Alaska state statutes have to be changed to cover a transfer such as this? And, will the federal protection of land stop and cease after 1991 on the land and corporation? Just what does "Registered Settlement Trust Fund" mean?

Will Sealaska be moving to change the Alaska state statutes in order to be

distributing alienable common stock to those dissenting shareholders (after 1991) rather than cash or past services rendered after 1991? I realize that it may be a little early and will have to be put on ballots close to 1991.

Will the village subsurface rights still be tied to the regional corporations and not separated after 1991? I was not a delegate this year at AFN and didn't have much opportunity to ask these questions. I would also like to know if Sealaska and our board of directors will fight for land for Wrangell, Petersburg, Ketchikan and Haines? They are landless yet. What will happen to that amendment passed at AFN in 1986?

I was aware that Sen. Murkowski had stated in his May 6 address to Congress that the 1991 amendments would not have to go back to the shareholders for final approval. Will all this just become congressional law? It is indeed sad that the 86,000 shareholders did not even get to vote on these amendments. So many shareholders are experiencing severe economic hardships.

It is time now for the Native shareholders to send their wires, messages to Congress on the 1991 amendments.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Harriet Beleal

Sealaska, Shee Atika Shareholder
Anchorage

Low scores blamed on being poor

To the editor:

On Sunday, Nov. 1, I heard on Channel 2 News a report on Natives and minorities scoring low on tests. The report said that it was due to being poor.

The curriculum in the villages are a year to a year and a half behind the town and city schools. Why is this?

When tests and surveys are done, why do they not visit village schools and compare them with the city and town schools?

Do they not assume too much in thinking that Native and minority brains are smaller or that there is a big difference in the whole of us?

A lot of headaches could be put to rest if they would dig at the problem and stop placing blame and making excuses for their lack of interest or caring.

They should decide to place each

student at one point and not segregate as they have been doing and getting away with all these years.

When a rich kid fails, what do they blame it on? I could almost be sure all rich kids are not smart and above average.

We can band together and bring our "poorly educated" children up to city and town levels in school work. Surely, it could not hurt the village students any. It may mean a bit more effort on the part of the teacher and student. After all, is that not what they are there for?

Reports in the past had it blamed on alcohol and drugs. Today it is being poor. What is going to be next? Where will the next excuse come from and what will it be?

Sincerely,

Hazel Malutin
Karluk