

Editorial—

Write to Jack Haley

Senators and congressmen of our government are coming back to their offices in Washington, D.C. this week to get back to their business of lawmaking after a three weeks recess. One among many, is Congressman Jack Haley of Florida. Haley has the important position of being chairman of the House of Indian Affairs Committee. That committee is slated to handle much of the House version of the native land claims bill, hopefully starting soon after this week.

Three weeks ago, we carried a story in the Tundra Times urging native people and their leaders to write to Congressman Haley so that he would receive them soon after today, September 9. The idea is to get the letters on land claims ideas when he is in his office so he may personally read them. It is our hope, of course, that he does. We hope the letters will be sent this week and early next week.

It has been indicated that Congressman Haley would like to receive many letters from Alaska's native leaders and their people. This would, of course, give the congressman a good idea of what the native people are thinking about what a claims bill should be and what they think of the claims bill as U.S. Senate passed it.

Jack Haley has the reputation of being a tough man in Congress. We have also found out that he has a good reputation of being a tough battler for justice for the Indians of the Lower 48. This is good to know especially when he has done it within the period of eight years tenure in Congress. This reputation makes Haley a good man to write to concerning native land claims of which he will have a great deal to do. It wouldn't do any harm to write Congressman Wayne Aspinall, John Saylor, Ed Edmundson and others also.

There has been a lot of dissatisfaction among the native people with the bill the Senate passed. This should be made known in the letters.

We have found out from a very reliable source that Congressman Haley has a better record in the House of Representatives in his efforts for justice for the Indians than that of the Senate. This is a significant revelation that should be taken advantage of by the native people. It could be that our people have found a friend who could generate great influence in getting justice through the native land claims issue for the native people of Alaska.

Therefore, right now, is the time to write to Congressman James A. Haley and tell him of your feelings of what a land claims bill should be. His regular address is:

Honorable James A. Haley
House of Representatives
Room 1236, Longworth Building
Washington, D.C.