

Letter to Editor

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The Tundra Times:

I have to quote from your issue of April 19th:

"Amendments (to the Tlingit and Haida Jurisdictional Act) suggested by Andrew Hope, President of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians, were adopted. The bill as it goes to the Senate would lift the prohibition against per capita payments."

The amendments which you attribute to Andrew Hope also prohibit "per capital payments." In other words, the present law and the law (if amended) require another act of congress before per capita payments can be made.

Mr. Hope says the Indian Bureau is eliminated from his proposal. It is true on its face but actually the BIA is not eliminated because EVERY expenditure (except for administration) requires ANOTHER act of congress whether in a special bill or inclusion in the current budget and of course the BIA will be consulted by congress.

Mr. Hope's bill (the term used to describe the BIA's bill) takes away from each village its local control and gives a central council (probably composed of 15 members—one from each village) unlimited power to spend the money. That is why I make the charge that SINCE IT WILL HAVE THE POWER TO SPEND ALL THE MONEY IN ONE OR TWO TOWNS, IT WILL DO SO. Under the present law, each village controls its own money and the consent of the village council must be obtained before its money can be spent elsewhere.

In principal, Mr. Hope has always been for 100% citizenship but in practice he definitely favors bureaucratic control and this Senator Gruening, when governor, has described as "second class citizenship."

Sincerely,

William L. Paul, Sr.

Representing the Stikine Tribe