

13TH REGIONAL MEETS DEFEAT

Computer Validation To Be Checked Nov. 30

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Acting Secretary of the Interior John C. Whitaker announced Friday that Alaska Natives residing outside of the state have elected not to establish a thirteenth region for non-resident Natives under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Computer validation of the election showed that only 2,375 of 5,774 Natives eligible to vote favored formation of the thirteenth region. The Nov. 6 tabulation will be checked during a second run of the computer on Nov. 30.

The Alaska Native regional corporations were notified of the election results in telegrams from Whitaker. "Section 7(c) of the act requires that the secretary establish a thirteenth region only if a majority of all eligible Natives eighteen years of age or older who are not permanent residents of Alaska elect, pursuant to Section 5(c), to be enroll-

ed in such region. . . (the vote) is not a majority," he said.

". . . Unless a contrary result is indicated by. . . final tabulation, all those who elected to be enrolled in a thirteenth region, if established and the dependent members of their households who are less than eighteen years of age, will be enrolled in one of the Native Alaska regions in accordance with the priorities provided in section 5(b)," he added.

The computer validation is the final step in completion of enrollment of non-resident Natives. According to the settlement act, enrollment of the non-

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resident Natives was to have been completed by Nov. 17.

Completion and certification of the roll of Natives residing in Alaska is required to be accomplished by Dec. 17.

Challenges to the vote on the thirteenth corporation are expected from the Alaska Federation of Natives International, a Seattle-based organization, which formed Esk-Ind-Al, the alleged Seattle-based organization which formed Esk-Ind-Al, the alleged "thirteenth" corporation, with financing from the Seattle First National Bank.