

Barry Jackson Chides Native Leaders on Poor PR on Claims

"Native leaders had shown tremendous political maturity and judgement in the past, but that once we gained Gov. Hickel's support we began to relax our positions on the Alaskan public

and Alaskan society," Barry Jackson declared this week in Fairbanks.

Jackson said that the native leaders were doing a poor job in the needed public relations with Alaskans in general and indicated that this has generated opposition to the land claims in the Anchorage press as well as in other parts of Alaska.

Jackson, who serves as attorney for some native organizations, including the Alaska Federation of Natives, made the following disturbing remark:

"U.S. Forest Service spokesmen intentionally, or unintentionally, are misrepresenting the AFN position on the land claims."

Barry Jackson had the following to say about the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and its counterpart

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in the U.S. House of Representatives:

"I don't believe there will be a bill cleared in either committee this year. There is a grave danger that if we don't have unity in the land claims effort, the Congress will sweep the bill under the rug or turn it over to the Indian Claims Commission."

It is a well known understanding that land litigations processed through the claims commission take years to complete.



BARRY JACKSON