

NATIVES EYE MINERAL RIGHTS

Four Sections Out of 36-Block Townships in All Areas Intrigues

The native land claims solution in Alaska is beginning to become the foremost subject of discussion in the minds of the Alaska native leadership and its counsels.

Becoming of paramount importance are some of the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in

Alaska's recommendations for resolution of the claims.

The native land claims solution in Alaska is beginning to become the foremost subject of discussion in the state. It is easily the greatest subject in the minds of the Alaska native leadership and its counsels.

Becoming of paramount importance are some of the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska's recommendations for resolution of the claims.

These have been widely discussed at the land task force and

the Alaska Federation of Natives board of directors and its executive committee.

One of the interesting points of the Federal Field Committee's ALTERNATE recommendations is its idea that four sections of each township be awarded to the native people along with mineral rights.

There are 36 sections to each township. Each section is 640 acres, which means that out of each township, the natives get 2,560 acres or one-ninth of each township.

(Continued on page 6)

Mineral Rights . . .

(continued from page 1)

Fred Paul, counsel for the Arctic Slope Native Association, in his recommendation for settlement of land claims had the following to say:

" . . . There are 358 million acres under federal control now. Certain of these, e.g., Fort Richardson, cannot be included in any settlement for obvious reasons. So, let us take a net figure of 350 million acres. One-ninth is about 39 million acres in which we would have the mineral rights. Some we would manage, others we would not."

Paul said that the Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 was a good illustration.

"It has some 23 million acres," he said. "Under this proposal, the Navy would have the management but we would have the beneficial ownership of one-ninth thereof. To the area east of Pet 4, the State has selected two million acres. We would get 220 thousand acres and the management of the same."

"And so it would go throughout the State. In analyzing the mineral surveys in other areas of the State, the Federal Field Committee records show great potential. I, for one, believe we should not gamble by taking the Federal Field Committee's preferred approach and we should diversify our holdings throughout the State."

Then Fred Paul had the following recommendation added:

"Supposing, too, we expand the gross area by including the four sections out of the Inner Continental Shelf? Then the settlement is worthy of serious consideration."

The AFN board of Directors, which is also a member of the Governor's land task force as a body, went on record last week that it would include those beneficially attractive portions of the Federal Field Committee recommendations in the AFN land claims bill now being drafted.

AFN also went on record that the bill would call for each re-

gional organization to be a separate entity from the Alaska Native Development Corporation.

In last year's AFN bill, or land task Force bill, regional associations would have been under the jurisdiction of the parent organization, as would the villages.

Under the new bill, regional organizations would administer developments in villages.