

Jackson Asks Reconsideration

Gordon Jackson, Executive Director of Alaska Legal Services Corporation announced that Alaska Legal Services Attorneys representing the villages of Kaktovik and Wainwright have requested a reconsideration of Judge Hodges' decision to hold the hearing on the state Beaufort lease case in Fairbanks.

Alaska Legal Services attorneys are representing the villages of Kaktovik and Wainwright in suits to set aside the recent Beaufort Sea Lease sale. They allege oil-related activities will destroy the subsistence culture of the Inupiat Eskimos.

"Our attorneys have consulted with their clients and, in view of their

strong feelings, we have requested a reconsideration of Judge Hodges' decision to hold the hearing in Fairbanks. Accommodations are available in Barrow, facilities for the media are available, and the fourteen oil company attorneys can in fact fly to Barrow on their many private aircraft."

Jackson said, "If the media are as interested in reporting the case as the Judge said they are, they should report it from Barrow. The most important issue is not the convenience of the media, but whether the parties to the litigation will be able to participate in the judicial process."

Jackson further stated, "If there is any priority for justice in the Bush, the court should consider holding the hearing where the people are most affected by an oil lease sale. That place today is Barrow."