

• Irvin: Bill offers significant protection

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very much opposed to it. Hodel believes that Alaska Natives should be able to benefit from their individual shares of stock by selling them in 1991, when the stock would become alienable if the 1991 bill fails.

Even if the president did veto the bill, both Young and Stevens said there are enough votes in both houses to override.

George Irvin, Alaska Federation of Natives vice president, said he was delighted with the bill's passage by Congress.

He said AFN "owes a real debt of gratitude" to Alaska's congressional delegation, to the committee chairmen in both Houses, Congressman Morris Udall and Sen. Bennett Johnston, D-La., as well as Congressmen George Miller, D-Calif. and Bruce Vento, D-Minn., and Sen. James McClure, R-

Idaho.

Irvin said if the bill gets White House approval it will mean significant protections for Native lands.

"It's a major public policy action by the Congress to refine the terms of the original 1971 settlement," Irvin said. "This major victory will allow AFN to turn its attention to other critical issues facing the Native community. These include human services, family and community problems, subsistence rights, tribal governance, economic development and alcohol and drug abuse."

The bill contains most of the original goals of AFN, as expressed in the eight 1991 resolutions passed in March 1985. Left out of the bill, however, was a provision to provide for the transfer of lands to other entities, such as tribal councils, as well as an exemp-

tion on federal gift taxes for the conveyance of stock to family members.

Included in the bill are these major provisions:

- Automatic extension of alienability restrictions on village and regional corporation stock. Included is a provision, however, that authorizes the board of directors of any regional corporation or any village corporation within the Bristol Bay and Aleut regions to decide within one year of the bill's passage that they want to call for a vote of their shareholders to extend stock sale restrictions. Any corporation that decided to seek a vote would then be required to pay for the stock of their dissenters.

- A stock repurchase option, allowing a corporation to buy back shares of stock from non-Native shareholders who inherit stock.

- Authorization to issue shares to new Native children, those who were missed in the 1971 enrollment, as well as a the option to give special to Native elders.

- Extension of voting rights to descendants of Natives who inherit shares.

- The automatic land bank protections to protect undeveloped Native lands from loss due to bankruptcy, bad debt, taxation or squatters' rights.

In addition, the bill contains a provision to authorize corporations to "recapitalize" by issuing alienable shares of stock on the open market or to the corporation's shareholders that could have limited voting rights. And, it includes the option of a state registered settlement trust as an alternative organization which could receive transfers of surface land.

Forest Service just might have a summer job for you

JUNEAU — For the first time in Alaska, new applicants for temporary, seasonal employment with USDA Forest Service units on the Ketchikan Area, Tongass National Forest and Chugach National Forest in Anchorage, Cordova, and Seward will be hired through Alaska State Employment Service offices.

A variety of openings in Forestry, Biological, Engineering Aide, and Technician field positions are available for the 1988 season on both of these units. The Forest Service, in cooperation with the State, is testing a program to utilize Alaska's employment offices

for recruitment, screening and referral of applications for temporary positions on these units.

Forest Service offices at Sitka, Juneau, Hoonah, Petersburg, and Wrangell will continue to utilize the summer seasonal temporary employment process to fill their temporary positions. Recruiting dates for these vacancies are Dec. 1 through Jan. 15, 1988. Applications must be postmarked by Jan. 15, to be considered. An application form 6100-23 and instructions may be obtained from any Forest Service office.

Community College Coalition files signatures for 1988 vote

The Community College Coalition of Alaska and the Association of Community College Councils earlier this month filed with the Division of Elections 230 initiative booklets containing 25,511 signatures of Alaskans seeking to place the separation of the community colleges from the University of Alaska on the 1988 general election ballot, coalition officials said.

They said the initiative represents nearly 7,000 more signatures than are required to place this issue before the people of Alaska.

Over a six month period, 350 volunteers across the state gathered signatures from all 27 Alaskan election districts. All 11 communities where a community college exists are represented in the tally.

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