

# THCC updates tribal list

The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska is stressing the importance of each Tlingit/Haida tribal member's cooperation in the establishing a new and comprehensive list of tribal members eligible to vote in Tlingit/Haida Community Delegate elections.

Problems encountered in attempting to update the existing lists prompted the re-registration drive. According to the council president John Hope, "There are just too many duplicate names on the 'base list' with no means of verifying them.

"And with the (Tlingit/Haida) community delegate elections pending, we've decided that an all-out effort directed at the re-registration of all voting constituents would be the best way to tackle the problems associated with updating our voter lists."

The present registration lists are derived from the original Bureau of Indian Affairs "base roll," established by an Act of Congress (PL-89-130) on Aug. 19, 1965.

Since that time, the council has taken action to establish a

"membership roll" to include all tribal members born after the 1965 Act, and also those members inadvertently left out of the (BIA's) enrollment process.

Hope says the BIA base roll "just didn't have enough information to double check individual voter registration with accuracy. The new registration applications will include each voter's social security number and birthdate. With this new information available, it'll be much easier to update the lists this year or ten years from now."

Hope stressed the need for tribal members to cooperate in the re-registration drive, stating, "Some people feel like their one vote won't mean very much, but there have been instances where one vote has changed the course of history. We'd like every tribal member to realize the significance of their one vote, both in our elections and on the state and national level."

Both Hope and central council executive director, Ray Paddock, are emphasizing the importance of the re-registra-

(Continued on Page Ten)

# Registration urged for members

(Continued from Page Seven)

tion effort in their travels to local constituent communities.

Hope, recently returned from a meeting with the council's California chapter and commented about the problems getting people to cooperate with the re-registration drive. "Most of our tribal members are very conscientious and willing to cooperate . . . if they feel there is a real need. The crux of the whole re-registration problem is convincing our constituents that this need exists, and, as plain as the problem is to us, sometimes it's difficult to convey the magnitude of the problem to others.

"We would really like to see our constituents take the short time it takes to re-register," Hope said, "and to provide their support to a delegate of their choice. It's their way of being represented at our annual meeting where the central council determines its policies and direction."

Hope's executive secretary, Judy George, has been coordinating the re-registration drive with local Tlingit/Haida community registrars. She stated, "The elections will be a lot easier to verify if every one of our voters cooperates with the re-registration. In the past, elections have proven to be both time-consuming and costly. By establishing a new and comprehensive list, we'll be able to save the council a little money and eliminate a lot of problems associated with the election process."

To be eligible to vote in the upcoming Tlingit/Haida community delegate elections, tribal members must be registered with their community chapter no later than June 30, 1982. The central council has requested a two-week extension on the deadline date from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.