

# 13TH RESULTS TO BRING SUITS

## Computer Test Run May Show Fate of 13th Reg. Corporation Today

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.

ANCHORAGE - Computer validation of out-of-state applicants for enrollment in the Alaska Native land claims should reveal today whether or not a thirteenth regional corporation will be established under the terms of the settlement act.

Enrollment officials John Hope and George Walters left Anchorage for New Mexico for a test run of the computer on November 5.

Whatever the results of the election, suits are expected to be filed to challenge the vote.

The enrollment office has received many letters from Natives residing outside of Alaska who were persuaded by Esk-Ind-Al, the alleged thirteenth regional corporation, and the Alaska Federation of Natives International, to vote for the thirteenth, and who have sought to change that vote.

Most of those who returned forms mailed by Esk-Ind-Al to thirteenth say they did not realize that membership in the thirteenth would sever all ties with ancestral lands in Alaska.

The enrollment office said

that approximately 700 non-resident Natives used the AFNI form to elect membership in the thirteenth regional corporation.

Many of these have since written the enrollment office to say that they were influenced by the misleading AFNI literature.

As one recipient of that mailing remarked, "The letter came on Seattle-First National Bank Corporate Trust stationery just as if we already had the money in the bank."

Others have said that they were led to believe that the literature endorsing the thirteenth region was coming from the Alaska Federation of Natives, the statewide association which pressed the claims office since 1966, rather than the Seattle-based AFNI.

The AFNI forms received by the enrollment office arrived after the enrollment deadline and were forwarded to the Interior Department's solicitor along with the group of 10,140 applications. According to the enrollment schedule, final review of these appeals was to have been made by the solicitor by

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Oct. 30. Apparently, this has not yet been done.

The enrollment will be completed in time for the Dec. 17 deadline, but the office may be in business past that date if a review of applications is ordered.

The enrollment office said that it has not been trying to influence the decision of non-resident Natives on the thirteenth corporation, but has tried to keep potential members informed to the point of making their own decisions.

Rachel Craig, president of the

Alaska Federation of Natives, Washington, agreed and complimented the enrollment office on work it had done. The confusion, she said in a recent interview, originated from the Interior Department in Washington and the Seattle proponents of the thirteenth corporation.

One prominent Alaskan Native leader, who was recently invited to meet with Seattle area Natives, declined the invitation because, as he put it, he wanted to stay a respectable distance from the bloody controversy.