

Other Voices—

Anyone who has read the history of the westward expansion of the United States will readily admit the relationship between the U. S. and the Indian nations was one long series of broken treaties and land grabs.

The Navajo people, along with many other people of major and minor Indian groups, were pushed into areas in which it is impossible for a white man to make a living and the Indian people dwell there only to eke out a survival type of existence.

The news media in general is that of the white man and little is heard of the viewpoint of the Indian plaintiff in land claims cases.

Few persons in the state and federal government were particularly interested in settling the cumbersome land claims cases until the huge oil discovery in the Prudhoe Bay area, with certain of the native claims having been tied up in court, ignored, lobbied against or otherwise delayed for decades.

Now that it is important to the state and federal agencies to have the native claims solved, we read such statements as, "Settlement of Alaska native claims must shortly be resolved or it will seriously hamper the development of Alaska," and "It's time to let them (the natives) become first class citizens instead of beating them down."

Gov. Miller recommends that the Alaska Federation of Natives not receive the two per cent overriding resource royalty; not receive a land settlement of 40 million acres, but receive something less than the Department of Interior's proposal of 27 million acres; not receive patent to 160 acres of land; that villages not receive exclusive rights to harvest fish, wildlife, berries and fuel on land granted to them.

There is no doubt that state's stand will influence public opinion, and seems that if the natives have help like this from the state they certainly don't need help from their adversaries.

—WRANGELL SENTINEL