

William Paul Sr., Takes Issue With Tlingit-Haida Times Story

Seattle 2, Washington
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Tundra Times:

That headline of yours (May 3rd issue) "Tlingit-Haida Feud Boils" is horrible and it creates disrespect for our portion of the Natives of Alaska and hence for all the Natives which you are seeking to eradicate. You should pin that front page on the wall just to remind you of the wrong you have done all of us.

The above objection is in addition to the fact that there is no "feud" down this way that can be described by that word.

There is a difference of opinion which of course is not unusual no matter who wrote the bill. For instance, your story of your interview with Sen. Bartlett suggests that the pending amendment provides for per capita distribution and the Senator thinks that partial cash distribution is best for all the claimants, also that the Indian Bureau is opposed to total cash distribution.

Here you see what is wrong with official thinking; (1) that the subject is treated as a political question instead of a legal one on the question of "who owned the land,"

a question that has been fully solved by the Court of Claims, to-wit, certain 14 "tribal" plaintiffs; (2) that the pending bill provides for per capita distribution when there is no such thing different from the present law—in either case it takes additional legislation EVEN if this amendment is adopted; (3) that partial distribution is fair when the fact is such distribution discriminates against those who have migrated from the former habitats, e.g. to Anchorage, Seattle or else.

The Claimants, what about them? Twice their leaders offered to quit in return for a few land reservations and no money; now they are excited because the lawyers say the judgment will be the "biggest" ever possibly \$30 million for the loss of OVER 30 million acres worth according to U.S. Forestry over \$400,000,000 but they clamor for a mere \$3,000 each (if the BIA ever lets any of it go).

The Tlingits rejoice that they have ejected the Indian Bureau. Have they? To spend one dollar (outside of administration congress has to pass another law and the Indian Bureau will be there just as it is now. The Indian Bureau employees are telling the claimants "You can't get per capita distribution. You can't. You can't" and the poor Indian will do what he always does, he will quit except a few of us.

One final word; perhaps the biggest word "FREEDOM." When that bill passes, Messrs. Gruening and Bartlett will have made all of us SECOND CLASS CITIZENS, unable to spend a dollar of our own money without the approval of the Indian Bureau! ! !

Sincerely,

William L. Paul, Sr.