

Carter of AFN Resigns -

Wants Time for Land Use Planning

By MARGIE BAUMAN

ANCHORAGE — Board members of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. have accepted the resignation of executive Vice President Harry Carter offered during a stormy annual meeting several weeks ago.

The action came Sunday at a Board meeting in the Koloa Building in Anchorage, with Carter and the Board citing his growing responsibilities with the federal-state Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska as the prime reason.

Carter, the lone native on the ten-member commission said he felt it was "impossible to serve at the same time two organizations whose activities are growing greater every day.

"I think I can best serve the Alaska native people on the Land Use Planning Commission . . . and will be happy to continue serving the Alaska Federation of Natives in every way," Carter said.

"He has done a tremendous job under the circumstances," said State Sen. Willie Hensley, president of AFN, Inc, and the board stressed the importance to Alaska Natives of Carter's role on the Land Use Planning Commission.

Word of Carter's resignation came during an open Board meeting following an all day executive session on finances and personnel. It followed by two months and three days the ouster of Donald L. Wright as president, with Hensley elected to replace him.

Wright chose to take the matter to court and it was during the convention, as members of the board were being

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served copies of Wright's suit, that Carter offered his resignation.

Carter has been associated with the native land claims movement in Alaska since the mid-1960's.

In addition to his work with the statewide organization his position has involved him in its several programs funded through grants and contracts.

He helped organize the Kodiak Area Native Association and has been a strong proponent of centralizing services of mutual need to the 12 regional corporations.

In a special land claims settlement issue of the Tundra Times, Dec. 17, 1971, Carter spoke out as executive director of the old A.F.N. asking native people for "continued patience and understanding as we continue to serve you."

"Each village and each region is faced with the awesome problem of planning and formulating management and development capabilities without duplicating efforts and unnecessarily wasting money through competition. There will be continuing attempts to divide us and thereby conjure us by elimination of our funds and forcing the sale of our remaining lands and removal of our human rights," Carter warned.

Almost immediately with the start of 1971 came the clouds of controversy as the AFN board attempted to rechart its goals and objectives for implementation of a bill they had fought for five years.

In the interim before the storm had passed Wright was ousted and several regions threatened verbally or through their continued absence at board meetings that they might pull out.

The first post-convention meeting of 1972 was by comparison smooth sailing, with Joseph Upicksoun, president of the Arctic Slope Regional Corp., chairing the session.

By the end of the two day meeting, the board had elected Robert Nick, representative of the Calista Corp., as the new

chairman of the board, Upicksoun, the vice chairman, filled in the role in the absence of Nick.

Henry Eaton, of Kodiak representing Koniag, Inc., was elected secretary of the corporation. Frances Degnan of Unalakleet, now with the Alaska native enrollment office, served as secretary to the old AFN board.

In other action the board:

- Passed a resolution urging the Department of Housing and Urban Development to approve the bid packages of the Alaska Federation of Natives housing authority and authorization to begin advertising for developers.

- The resolution asked HUD to waive the financial feasibility requirement for management for low rent housing programs in Alaska as previously agreed to by HUD.

- Instructed Hensley that his prime role as president would be directly with implementation of the land claims act.

- Further instructed Hensley to investigate the area of satellite communications and send his comments to Gov. William A. Egan and Alaska's congressional delegation.

- Agreed to continue operating present social service programs within AFN, including Health rights.

- Left standing for the next AFN, Inc. board meeting Dec. 16-17 action on an annual budget, as well as the dates for the 1973 AFN, Inc. convention.

Of these actions, the housing move was the most serious. Whether HUD will agree with the resolution "is an open question," Hensley said.

"I think we'll have a better idea this week. We are hoping there will be a favorable decision on the part of region ten to go ahead with planning for the coming summer.

"We have to go to bid by early December to get anything built, some 14 native villages under the AFN housing program. Plus three separate regional groups are now working on housing construction plans for the summer of 1973."