

# Reg. Land Managers Meet

On January 9th a meeting was held in Anchorage with land managers and other regional corporation staff with the Assistant Secretary of the Interior Royston Hughes, Ken Brown and Bruce Schultheis of the Department of Interior.

Those regions present were: Aleut Corporation, Calista, Doyon, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, NANA Regional Corporation.

Some of the issues discussed were:

Meeting concerning easements with the regions and the Alaska Task Force was tentatively scheduled for the latter part of February.

The Appeal Regulations will be ready for publication in mid-February as indicated by Mr. Hughes.

We have received notification that the deadline on filing of nominations for land under Section 14 (h) has been extended to March 1st for those cities that desire extra time.

Discussion of Native groups followed. AFN has taken an informal survey of the regional corporations and it was determined that there would be less than 20 Native groups in their estimation rather than the number that Interior had projected.

BLM will be conducting the public hearing on the Corridor study rather than the Federal/State Land Use Planning Commission. These hearings are scheduled through January in Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel and Dillingham.

Each of the Regions received copies of resumes of those interested in the vacancy on the Alaska Claims Appeal Board. A poll of the regions to determine who they would like to recommend to fill the vacancy will be made.

The vacancy on the Federal/State Land Use Planning Commission was brought up at this time, also. Roger Lang has written to Secretary of Interior Rogers C.B. Morton to request that consideration of a Native person to fill this vacancy be given. No response has been received yet.

The 13th Region was discussed and the recent ruling made by Judge Gasch. Assistant Secretary Hughes indicated that the direction AFN takes will have a definite bearing on their course of action.

There are two specific points on which AFN would base their appeal of the Judge's ruling — the issue of a new election, and whether or not an absolute majority is required.

Some of the questions raised were — Who does the Department of Interior recognize as the Interim Board of Directors of the 13th? Will there be provisions for changes?

Much of the discussion centered around the ever-present easement issue. The interpretation is quite varied on just exactly what easements are to be allowed.

Linear easements are never mentioned in the Act, rather periodic and necessary are the terms spelled out in the Act. Do easements mean "use"? What is fair market value based upon?

Mr. Hughes reassured those present that a "level of

compassion" will be exercised by the Department when a village has made an error in selection. It was felt that the State should be invited to attend the Alaska Task Force meeting along with the regional representatives in Washington, D.C.