

Nicholls Says Pollock Wrong

"Just where in the state is economic development being retarded because of native land claims?" Hugh Nicholls, executive director of the Arctic Slope Native Association asked this week, at Barrow.

"I question U.S. Rep. Howard Pollock's statement that the state will be hurt by the land freeze.

"Up here, a half million dollars is being spent for Arctic research, an oil well is being drilled at Proudhoe Bay and a new airport is being built. I'd like to know specifically what part of the state Pollock is referring to. I think he's just using scare tactics."

Nicholls asserted that the state just wants to get the land so it can be sold.

"Selling land does not increase its value," he said.

"The state should have a long range plan. If they really wanted to sit down and talk to us they would get an immediate response. When the state wants to talk, things get worked out."

A plan for 50 year leasing might be one possibility that would be acceptable to native organizations, Nicholls said.