

Gov., Attorney Predict Speedy Land Solution

Governor Walter J. Hickel and attorney Stanley McCutcheon predicted the rapid solution of land claim problems following a conference Tuesday.

Neither gave any details on the manner in which the solution would be found, and Hickel indicated that many details were still in the formulation stage.

However, he said that the first step of the solution would be revealed at a conference he has requested with Native leaders in Anchorage on Feb. 26.

McCutcheon, who had requested the talk with the governor, praised Hickel's approach to the land claims.

"He is on the road to solution of the overall Native problem," said McCutcheon. "He has a real burning desire to assist the Natives in their economic plight."

"The proposals the governor will announce at Anchorage will be of interest to all of the Native peoples of Alaska. I know the Natives will be pleased," said McCutcheon.

Although no date for final settlement of the problem was given, Hickel said it "will be resolved before I leave office."

Others at the conference were Attorney General Donald A. Burr, State land counsel Edgar P. Boyko and Anchorage attorney Clifford Groh, who represents the Tyonek Indians.