

# Some Per Capita Funds Distribution In Tlingit-Haida Bill

The Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee recently voted to report the Gruening-Bartlett bill relating to Tlingit-Haida property claims in southeastern Alaska.

Amendments suggested by Andrew Hope, President of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians, were adopted. The bill as it goes to the Senate would lift the prohibition against per capita payments, however, funds would not be available for advances, with the exception of certain attorney and litigation fees, until after legislation has been passed setting forth the purposes for which the money will be used, including per capita payments and/or community development.

The Council, in the interim, would be authorized to prepare plans for use of the funds. The Interior Secretary would be directed to prepare a roll of all citizens of Tlingit or Haida blood residing in the United States, the costs of which would come from the judgment.

In 1935 Congress enacted legislation permitting suits to be brought in the Court of Claims. In 1959 a favorable judgment was made involving more than 18 million acres of land but the amount of the judgment has not yet been determined by the court.