

AFN Resolution Points Out Injustices to Eklutna Indians

WHEREAS, on the 5th day of December 1927, President Calvin Coolidge, in recognition of the rights and needs of the Eklutna Indians, set aside in their behalf, a reservation of land in the Eklutna area of Alaska, and

WHEREAS, thereafter, the United States Government, in 1936, in recognition of the fact that the area set aside was insufficient to serve the needs of the Indian people, established, created and set aside 328,000 acres of land for the use and benefit of the Eklutna Indians, and

WHEREAS, the Eklutna Indians, having theretofore occupied, possessed and owned an area of land far greater than the land set aside, and

WHEREAS, their land was rapidly being taken from them by non-Indians, and the Eklutna people were being relegated to a smaller and smaller area, and

WHEREAS, trapping areas were being taken up by non-Indians, thereby dispossessing the Eklutna Indians, and

WHEREAS, various federal agencies were dispossessing the Indians and using their lands, and

WHEREAS, their fishing locations near Anchorage were outlawed and taken from them, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Railroad divided their lands in two and burned a large portion of it, and

WHEREAS, the Eklutna Indians, fearing they would be divested of their lands and homes completely, acquiesced and consented to the establishment of the above reservation without waiving their right to claim compensation for the additional land taken from them, and

WHEREAS, in 1941, the United States Government committed a gross breach of the understanding entered into between the Government and the Indians in 1936, and without their consent or approval and without compensation or other relief whatsoever, and in complete disregard of the acute needs and wants of the Indians, took from them for military purposes, all but 9,200 acres of the land theretofore set aside for the use and benefit of the Indians, and disposed them from all but the remaining 9,200 acres, and

WHEREAS, from that day forward, the Indians were prohibited from cutting fire wood without a special permit from the military under pain of severe military punishment, and

WHEREAS, some of the Indians could not read, speak nor understand the English language, and great suffering was endured by the aged and illiterate because of the failure of the government and the persons responsible to concern themselves with the Indian problem, and the devastating effect of dispossessing the Indians from their land, and

WHEREAS, no less than eight state and federal agencies have, since 1941, including the Alaska Railroad, Civil Aeronautics Authority, Bureau of Reclamation, Rural Electri-

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fication Administration, Territorial Highway Commission, Bureau of Public Roads, United States Army, State Department of Highways and, outrageously last, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, together with the other federal agencies, have taken from the Indians their lands and dispossessed them, thereby reducing their reservation from a total of 328,000 acres to a bare 1,920 acres, all without compensation or the barest meager consideration and in violation of the most primitive legal principles, and

WHEREAS, the final coup de grace is now being administered to the Eklutna Indians by the Alaska Railroad, which agency of the Federal Government, has now advertised for sale to the highest bidder, the gravel reserves of the remainder of the Eklutna reservation, the proceeds of which are directed to the treasury of the railroad for the use and benefit of everyone but the Eklutna Indians and with the crystal clear promise of leaving the Eklutna Indians, as their fair share of the land which they have occupied and owned since the beginning of time, a gigantic, huge, completely unproductive and useless hole in the ground in which the remainder of the once glorious tribe of American Indians may bury the last of their people, providing they have a special permit from the Health and Welfare Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, in convention assembled at Anchorage, Alaska, to enter this, their most beseeching protest against the outrageous treatment of the Eklutna Indians, and unanimously request the President of the United States to rectify the wrongs that have been committed over the years and which are now being committed against the Eklutna Indians while the last few remaining Eklutna Indians remain yet alive.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska this 21st day of October, 1967.

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

By Emil Notti, President

ATTEST:

Elva Noanes, Secretary