

# Hensley Calls NANA Meeting At Kotzebue December First

The Northwest Alaska Native Association is holding a meeting in Kotzebue Dec. 1 to discuss land claim problems and hear reports on recent Native education meetings held in other states.

William Hensley, executive director of the Association, said today that Burton Silcock, state director of the Bureau of Land Management and Robert Krumm, BLM district director here, are planning to attend the meeting.

The Association, which was formed in June, has filed land claims on almost 30 million acres of ground surrounding Kotzebue. Some 13 villages are members of the Association and Hensley said at least two representatives from each village are expected to attend the Dec. 1 meeting.

Hensley, recently elected Democratic representative from his district, said he will report on a meeting he attended last week the Na-

tional Congress of American Indians in Oklahoma City, Okla.

"There were about 400 Indians there from 70 tribes," Hensley said. "They passed a resolution supporting the Alaska Statewide Native Organization's land act policy."

The policy proposed that the U.S. Court of Claims be given jurisdiction over all lands claims in the State of Alaska.

"The Congress also opposed the proposed transfer of Native education from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare," Hensley said.

"They felt such a move would terminate the federal relationship with their tribes. They have developed an organization based on treaties and Indian law and presently deal directly with Washington, D.C.

"In the lower 48 the Indians have 50 million acres of land

under reservation status. The federal Indian policy has vacillated so much the Indians so much the Indians are fearful that their status as Indians, their lands and culture would be threatened by a transfer of the Native education and by other legislation being thought of now.

"They don't want to join the mainstream. There is, of course, a certain group that have no qualms about it but at this time the leadership is with an older group that is still fairly traditional.

"There are some who want change, but not if they feel their Indian way of living is threatened by a forced assimilation. Like everyone else, they want to determine their way of life for themselves.

"In Alaska the older leaders are willing to let the younger men try their ideas. That's the way I interpret my winning the Nov. 8 election."