

AFN MOVES TO PROTECT NAME

AFN Inc. Officials Put Corporate Papers in Order with State D.C.

JUNEAU — Officials of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. have put their corporate papers in order with the state, paving the way for possible action to protect the name of AFN Inc.

Completed updated annual reports for AFN Inc., for the years 1971, 1972 and 1973 were submitted to the Alaska Department of Commerce Friday, by Roger Lang, president of the statewide Native federation.

Lang and others among the leadership of the AFN Inc. have been disturbed by recent action taken outside the organization by a group seeking a liquor license, collecting money for a dog team on the Iditarod race and supporting a legislative bill all in the name of "The Alaska Federation of Natives."

The group is led by Don Wright, former AFN president and now a gubernatorial candidate.

"If he wants to run for governor, that's his personal prerogative," Lang told the Tundra Times Saturday. What Lang objects to is use of the statewide organization's name "in behalf of the people, for personal gain."

Lang said he was also disturbed about the connection between liquor licenses and the statewide Native organization.

"I'm not sure I want AFN's name used for liquor dispensing," he said. "Recent history indicates a lot of villages and towns are reconsidering liquor problems and going dry. The problem liquor creates far outweighs what it brings in (to the village)," he said.

Lang is also quick to note that the AFN did not even take a stand on the legislation, by State Rep. Larry Peterson, D-Ft. Yukon, which Wright says the statewide organization supports.

"I don't know what our name is worth, but it's very misleading when they use AFN, with the



ROGER LANG
AFN Inc. President

"Inc." or not," he said.

"The old AFN was dissolved in convention, by action of AFN delegates, in favor of the new AFN Inc.," he said. "It's not something that Don Wright by himself or Roger Lang by himself can do. I'm afraid of any type of organization that represents people, but it can also be used to further personal ambitions and I'm afraid that's what it is being used for now," he said.

Lang also questions whether Wright has legal authority to use the AFN Inc. three-ring emblem, designed during the presidency of Emil Notti, before passage of the Land Claims Act.