

LANG LEAVING AFN PERSISTS

President of AFN, Inc. Resignation Rumor Have People Guessing

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ANCHORAGE — While Alaska Federation of Natives President, Roger Lang, refuses to discuss the possibility of his rumored resignation, Bureau of Indian Affairs Commissioner Morris Thompson has informed the Tundra Times indirectly that Lang has submitted his "tentative resignation."

The rumor that Lang would resign soon surfaced in the Anchorage press last week while Lang was attending a conference in Amsterdam. Lang told the Tundra Times he thought the stories resulted from the fact that he and his wife have purchased a restaurant and soda fountain business in Sitka.

He indicated that plans were being made for the business, including a change of name, but he would not confirm whether he would resign soon to run it.

"If and when I resign, my board will know about it first," Lang said. "That's just good simple business procedure and good politics."

However, Thompson, when asked about the coincidence of his visit to Alaska at a time when this rumor was at large, said he knew nothing of it until he got to town.

"When I heard about it I called Roger up and asked him about it," Thompson said, "and he told me he has notified his board of his tentative resignation."

When asked if he would consider a position as AFN president, Thompson said he would not.

Born in the southeast village of Metlakatla, Lang took over as president of AFN in December of 1973 following Willie L. Hensley who resigned to run for the U.S. House of Representative.

Previous to that, Lang worked

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as executive vice president of the Alaska Native Foundation where he was responsible for the development of programs and inter-relationships with the regional corporations for technical and legal assistance for implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The AFN board of directors is scheduled to meet in the NANA Regional Corporation village of Kotzebue on April 18. If Lang should resign at that time, there are a number of persons being suggested as potential replacements.

Included in the list of possibilities are Sam Kito, executive vice-president for Doyon, Ltd., Byron Mallot, former commissioner for the Department of Community and Regional Affairs under Gov.

William Egan; Harry Carter, former executive director for AFN and presently a member of the Alaska Limited Entry Commission and Hensley, who is a director for the Capitol Relocation Committee, consultant to the North Slope Borough and member of the NANA board of directors.

The trip to Amsterdam, from March 17 until March 25, was for a pre-planning conference for an International Circum-Polar Conference to be held next year.

Lang is to join Dr. Frank Darnell, head of the Center for Northern Educational Research for the University of Alaska, as a consultant. The conference will be entitled: A Delivery System for Rural Education by the University of Alaska."