

POLLOCK AND HENSLEY CLASH OVER UDALL'S LAND FREEZE

**Pollock: Hensley
Playing Politics
Hensley: I'm Not**



Pollock

"Bill Hensley is playing politics," U.S. Representative Howard Pollock charged last week. "He does not want the native people to know that I am their friend."

Pollock reported that he attempted several appointments without success when State Representative William Hensley and Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives visited Washington, D.C. last month. They finally appeared briefly.

Hensley and Notti were in Washington to attend a briefing on the proposed Alaska land claims bill. Though Pollock had told the TUNDRA TIMES that native leaders would be invited, they never were contacted. They learned of the meeting through a newspaper and Cook Inlet Native Association paid their way to Washington.

"I had nothing to do with who was invited," Pollock

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Rep. Howard Pollock . .

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said. "Under Secretary of the Interior Charles Luce sent the invitations. I was just one of the people who attended." According to Pollock, Luce said that Natives needn't be concerned with land bill meetings, yet.

"I don't want to create a breach," Pollock continued. "We have a real important job to do. I want the native people to know that they have a friend in Congress."

"I want to know what the Natives want realistically and to represent their desires," he said. He complained that he has had a hard time getting information from Native leaders.

Pollock indicated that he was satisfied with the land bill as outlined by Secretary of the Interior Udall, though he will not be able to study it in detail until it is released in a few weeks. "The proposal is very much like what Governor Walter Hickel proposed," he said.

As the bill now stands, every village will get the land they occupy, up to 50,000 acres, or approximately nine-mile square, surrounding the village and compensation for land occupied and used in 1867.

Pollock is not happy, however, about the land freeze imposed by Secretary Udall.

"All land not in the bill should be unfrozen," he said. "Rest assured that the final bill will not provide more for the Natives than is already included. It is seldom that Congress ever says the administration is not giving enough."

"Why destroy our state's whole economic system? If you cut out the resources that run the government, you hurt

everyone, including the native people. There might not be any money for welfare."

Without the money from oil and gas leases, the state won't have enough money to run itself, Pollock added.

"The state would have to get money from some other source or collapse," Pollock said. They would have to raise taxes, but added that he had never known a tax increase to go through in an election year.

"The land freeze is not going to make the bill go through any faster," Pollock asserted. "The vast majority of non-natives recognize that there has been injustice and that there has to be some restitution."

It's just a question of how much land and how much money is needed."