

AFN, Inc.'s Hensley, Others to Tour Lower 48 Areas

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW
Staff Writer

President Willie Hensley announced that he and other members of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., will make a tour through Washington, Oregon, and California to speak to outside Alaskan natives on the

subject of the proposed 13th Regional Corporation.

Hensley was prompted to make the trip by requests from the leadership of various groups in the lower '48: Ken Boire, president of the Alaska Native Association of Oregon; Rachel Craig of the Washington Chapter of the Alaska Federation of

Natives; Lola Mandapat, president of the Confederation of Natives in San Diego, California; and Louis Gloria of the Southern California Alaska Native Association.

AFN, Inc. in Anchorage has received letters and phone calls from these groups protesting the barrage of propaganda directed at non-resident natives under the auspices of the questionable Esk-Ind-Al organization headed by Frank Price, Jr. and William Paul, Sr.

In a telegram dated June 1, Hensley informed Price that legal action may be taken against Esk-Ind-Al, its board members, and Price for sending out literature on May 25 signed "in such a manner as to indicate it

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Hensley to Tour . . .

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originated from AFN, Inc."

Price responded, saying the signature was "a typographical error", that it was "unintentional and that the alleged defect therein will be corrected in our next newsletter to the non-resident Alaska natives."

The correction may come too late to correct the false impression created by Esk-Ind-Al. Ken Boire of Oregon believes that Esk-Ind-Al deliberately gained support through confusion of identity between the REAL AFN, Inc. of Anchorage and the Alaska Federation of Natives International.

"The AFN and its officers are highly regarded by Alaska Natives everywhere. The use of AFN's good name has opened the door for this group as they travel around the country promoting their scheme."

Boire suggested that "In order to keep AFN's name from being besmirched by this group, a letter should be sent to the Secretary of the Interior and to the different Alaskan groups around the country clarifying

the difference between your organization and AFNI."

Rachel Craig of the Washington Chapter of the Alaska Federation of Natives also commented on the similarity of names between the three groups.

"There is much ado and confusion among Alaskans out here by the use of the name AFN International by the proponents of the 13th Corporation," said Ms. Craig. "The name denotes that you or we have sanctioned their use of it."

"They are misleading people," she states, "and I'm afraid there are going to be a lot of unhappy people when this is all settled and they find out how they've been duped."

"I really hope you and a select few can hold meetings for the Stateside Alaskans to counteract the half-truth twisted propaganda promoted as gospel truth by Frank Price and associates," Ms. Craig wrote President Hensley.

"There is a real psychological warfare going on and those of us upholding the Alaskan banner are taking the brunt of it and need your support."

Support came this week from Congressman Don Young who said: "Speaking not as a Congressman but as an Alaskan, I would advise non-resident native Alaskans to register with their hometown regions. It makes a lot more sense to me to keep control with the home regions rather than have them somewhere in Seattle."

"Suppose you were living in New York, for example, but you were from the Tanana Chiefs' region. I think if you enroll back to that region they are going to look after your interests a lot better than a small group in Seattle. You're going to have more immediate control."

Alaskans in San Diego recently had an opportunity to talk with Harry Carter, Cliff Black, and Lucy Carlo of Alaska and were eager to get correct information on land claims facts.

This will be the direction in which AFN, Inc. of Anchorage will proceed, giving the outsiders the chance to hear all the facts and then make an informed choice.

AFN, Inc. is now selecting a contingent of Alaska Native leadership to make the presentation in various cities in the lower '48. Hensley hopes to make the trip sometime between July 9-15.