

# ANS Camp 36 of Seattle Gives Support to Native Land Claims

Alaskan residents are not the only ones writing U.S. Congressmen in support of the natives in the land claims issue.

The Alaska Native Sisterhood, Camp 36 of Seattle, Wash. has also sent letters to Washington directing its remarks to Sen. Henry M. Jackson and Rep. Lloyd Meeds, both of Washington state.

Jackson is also chairman of the Senate Interior Committee, which is now considering several proposals on the land claims issue.

The Alaska Native Sisterhood is an auxiliary of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, an organization

of natives living primarily in southeastern Alaska.

In the letter sent to Jackson and Meeds, the Sisterhood wrote, "We wish to convey to you our desire that the settlement that the Alaska Federation of Natives is asking is the closest to a fair and equitable settlement considering that by right the native people own all of Alaska."

Many opponents of the natives' position have claimed that the United States should not have to pay for Alaska twice, the organization said.

However, the Russians never colonized interior Alaska, but rather settled only in a few coastal regions.

Thus their holdings were only a small portion of the total territory of Alaska and, consequently, so was the actual purchase of the United States the organization said.

And, at any rate, the statement continued, should not a claim of the people who inhabit and harvest the land take precedent over the claim some distant government made?