Miss Bonifant Influences—

Claims Get Backing

A resolution calling on the U.S. Congress to support the Native land claims position was adopted by 2,500 delegates and alternates of the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, at their 32nd annual convention June 18 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

A land claims bill has been reported out of the Senate Interior Committee and is expected to come before the Senate in the near future.

The resolution was authored

by Miss Marie Bonifant, executive board member of Local 9410, CWA, from San Francisco. Miss Bonifant, a Tlingit Indian formerly of Alaska, has been active in the California Chapter of the Tlingit and Haida Indians.

Although she was unable to attend the week-long convention in Ohio, she maintained contact with the nine delegates from San Francisco.

Also, a motion from Miss Bonifant that the San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO, to which she is a delegate, support the Indian occupation of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay was adopted.

In addition, she reported to the Tundra Times that the California chapter of the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska has been working through varous channels to support the Alaska Federation of Natives in their settlement of the Alaskan land claims.