

CHIEFS REJECT UDALL'S LATEST LAND BILL

Tanana Chiefs Say Udall's New Bill 'Real Bad'

The annual conference of the Tanana Chiefs this week in Fairbanks dwelt heavily on the latest proposed land bill drafted by the Department of the Interior and the feeling toward it was anything but favorable.

The conference drew up a resolution shortly before the Tundra Times deadline calling the Sec. Udall's bill unacceptable.

The resolution also called for a bill passage based on S. 2906 but substituting a

(Continued on page 5)

Chiefs Say Bill 'Real Bad' . . .

(Continued from page 1)

money grant for the Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas revenues contained in the S. 2906.

This resolution was to be voted on and it was expected that it would be adopted.

Earlier, State Rep. John Sackett and president of the Tanana Chiefs said the following about the Secretary's new bill:

"The feeling of the delegates toward it is real bad."

"We will either ask for amendments to the bill or reject it totally," Sackett added.

Sackett said that the bill, if enacted, would not allow communities like Rampart, Stevens Village, Fort Yukon and Chalkyitsik to select lands because they are within a land withdrawal area.

The Yukon River basin was classified and withdrawn by Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall when plans were proposed to build Rampart Dam. The withdrawal was affected about two years ago.

Sackett said that another part in the bill that would establish a three-man commission which would implement the provision of the measure would be under the control of the Secretary of the Interior.

"This commission doesn't have to have natives as members and it doesn't say where it would be set up," Sackett pointed out. "It could be at Washington, D.C. for all we know."

John Sackett repeated that the general feeling among

the delegates was to reject the new Interior bill.

On the first day of the conference last Wednesday, Sackett said that the flat \$180 million offer of the bill to pay for lands lost was not adequate and that the 50,000 acre maximum for villages was far too small.

"But it's been approved by the Bureau of the Budget and has the best chance of passing," Sackett stated.

He also said that Secretary's new bill dwells on the reservation concept.

This concept has been frowned upon by the native people and it was reflected in the compromise bill S. 2906 that was drafted by Gov. Hickel's Land Claims Task Force, the State and the Interior Department.

The S. 2906 calls for outright title to lands and completely free from control of the Interior Department.

It was pointed out to the Tanana Chiefs conference that Secretary Udall had completely rejected the S. 2906 along with his own idea of compensation for lands from the Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas revenues.

He posed this idea in Anchorage in November, 1967 when he met with native leaders.

On the first day of the conference last Wednesday, all land bills that have drafted were reviewed for their merits and the review was conducted by Barry Jackson, attorney for the Fairbanks Native Association

and the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Twenty-two delegates from widely separated areas of Interior Alaska attended the conference.

They are: Wilma Ketzler, Nenana; Arland Dick, Tanana; Henry Wiehl, Rampart; Richard Martin, Canyon Village; Peter Simple, Katherine Peter, Fort Yukon; Rev. David Salmon, Venetie;

Donald Joe, Tetlin; Titus Peter, Chalkyitsik; Andrew Isaac, Tanacross; Bill Williams, Hughes; Franklin Madras, Sr., Kaltag; Alfred Starr, Nenana; Andy Simon, Allakaket; Al Yaklin, Huslia;

Cora Demmert, Northway; Andy Demoski, Nulato; Ruby Tansy, Cantwell; Ralph Perdue, Fairbanks; Luke Titus, Minto; Wilfred Evans, Bettles; Leroy Isaac, Northway; and John Sackett, Huslia.