

Citizen Warns On Coming Of Lobbyists

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following telegram was sent to John Borbridge, vice president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, by Mr. Bill B. Hickman for copy and distribution as deemed appropriate by the AFN. Copies were sent to Congressman Pollock and Senators Stevens and Gravel in Washington, D.C.)

To: John Borbridge, Jr.
Re: Native Claims

Please note that all of Alaska elected representatives in Washington are attempting to work toward a settlement acceptable to the Natives and the nation's conscience.

They are the only voices in Washington that we the voters of Alaska have authorized to speak for us, consider their opinions in that light.

You will be subjected soon to a group of lobbyists from the State's Chamber of Commerce. In the name of "the good of the state," "just and equitable," and "right" they will propose a settlement which in my opinion fails to properly assess the value of the rights the natives are being asked to relinquish, and one which will not allow the native people to bridge the existing cultural gap and become a viable economic and political force.

They have profited by the present unconscionable situation and will profit by its continuation, consider their opinions in that light.

Non-native citizen interested in the optimum utilization of all of Alaska's resources, the greatest one of which is its people.

Bill B. Hickman