

Kake Man Writes Chambers, Miners

While the native land claims issue is under debate in Washington, natives in Alaska are speaking out on the issue in an effort to make their voices heard by the legislators 6,000 miles away.

One such native chose to direct his efforts to the Alaska Loggers and Miners Association and to the various Chamber of Commerces that are opposed to the stand of the Alaska Federation of Natives on the land claims issue.

While the miner's association has indicated cautious support for the native position, a small vocal minority within the organization has opposed aspects of the settlement.

In a copy of the letter sent to Tundra Times, Clarence Jackson, Sr. of Kake, Alaska wrote the opponents: "We ask you to try to see our side of the issue, our anxieties, our hopes. We ask for consideration."

Reviewing briefly the proposal of the Alaska Federation of Natives asking for 40 million acres of land, \$500 million, and a 2 per cent overriding royalty on gas and oil leases, the Kake native wrote, "We feel there was an injustice done to us in the past."

Land that the forefathers used for fishing, hunting, and trapping was bought and sold with no consideration for the natives.

However, through education, he continued, the native has recently been able to rise from his defeated state and to demand compensation for the losses he has suffered.

Turning to the future, Jackson wrote, "I have had a dream that this fine state is making

progress."

"The Alaskan Indians' ambition is to be active participants in the progress of the State of Alaska."

"A part of that dream is that, we all try to understand each other and respect each others' opinions.

"It is only through uniting and working together can we hope to progress, making her, the State of Alaska, the most progressive state this country has ever seen."

As any land owner would feel, he continued, the natives merely want to benefit from the resources found on their land and are not asking that the utilization of these resources be discontinued.

"Injustice can be changed to justice," he concluded, "and we can all start out again together."