

Publisher's Notes

SECRETARY HODEL'S FIRST VISIT TO ALASKA

U.S. Secretary Donald Hodel is currently wrapping up his first visit to Alaska, and so far he seems to have been well received by most Alaskans because what he's been saying about the major political issues that concern all of us sounds right.

Subsistence Hunting and Fishing in Alaska right now is a muddled mess, and his response to this issue has been practical and yet sensitive. Alaskan voters overwhelmingly passed the Subsistence Initiative in 1982, but the Courts overturned that law recently, and the last Legislature in session failed to fix the problems.

Secretary Hodel addressed this issue by simply stating that the Federal Government will not wait too long before fulfilling its obligation under ANILCA, which would mean that the Feds would step in to manage Subsistence Hunting and Fishing if the State of Alaska cannot. He recognized, however, that the matter is one which the State should manage.

His response to the proposed "1991" amendments to ANCSA was straightforward and reasonable. He expressed his concern about some of the concepts but appeared to have an open mind and a desire to learn more about how the amendments could correct the deficiencies in ANCSA.

Former Secretaries of the Interior, Udall, Hickel, Morton, Watt, and others have been at various times either loved or hated by Alaskans and Alaska Natives. Secretary Hodel, if he maintains his attitude as seen during his first visit to our State, may be the most respected.

TLINGIT AND HAIDA COUNCIL DAY

June 19, 1985, has been proclaimed by Governor Sheffield as "Tlingit and Haida Central Council Day," and the State Legislature honored the Council by passing a resolution, which reads in part as follows:

"All Alaskans can be proud of the remarkable record of achievement compiled by the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska.

We ask that each citizen of the 49th State join us in celebrating fifty years of service by this unique and highly effective organization as it celebrates fifty years of service and progress."

Perhaps more meaningful than celebrating fifty years of service, will be the commemoration of the contributions made by Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimpsian statesmen who led the struggles in the early days to secure justice in the settlement of our claim to the land. It is not often that we have the opportunity to pay tribute to Peter Simpson, William Paul, Sr., Louis Paul, and Andrew Hope, Sr., and to the many countless others who dedicated their lives to creating a better world for us to live in.

The men and women who saw the need for an institution like the Tlingit and Haida Council and created it were philosophers, warriors, and visionaries who did not hesitate to act at a time when the only compensation for their efforts was knowing that the future would be better for generations to come.