

# Hensley Zeros Discrepancies

"The Native people are not trying to bring the economy to a halt, they are trying to protect their right," said

Representative William Hensley at the Juneau Democratic Club Wednesday.

Speaking to a packed house

at the Baranof Hotel in Juneau, Willie traced the history of the Native land problem.

First was the Treaty of 1867, which prohibited natives from citizenship at that time. He quoted the treaty as saying that "laws must be passed later for Native citizenship."

The organic act of 1884 gave Alaska a measure of self-government, Willie said. Indians and others shall not be disturbed from their lands, the terms of ownership were reserved for future legislation. Willie said the "Natives are still waiting."

Noting the General

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(continued from Page 11)

Townsite Act and the Native Townsite Act, he commented that after the townsite survey, auctions are held to dispose of land within the town which is not claimed. Lands belonging to fishermen who are out of town could go to speculators.

The 1934 Indian Reorganization act is a result of the 1887 treaty, he said. He gave more of the circumstances through 1936 when the late Tony Diamond of Alaska supported legislation. It was as late as 1924 when full citizenship was given to Native peoples in Alaska.

Willie criticized the Alaska Constitution in that it did not face up to the problem of lands.

Rep. Hensley pointed out on a map areas where choice lands had been chosen by the state. The Native people felt that they had a right to select lands.

He commented that the governor's speech make it appear that the Natives were endangering the State's economy. He did agree with Hickel's belief that the Natives have the right to make

the claims, and that they must be settled quickly.

Hensley noted that the governor said we must solve the claims, and Attorney General Burr said that the claims are invalid.

He quipped that he believed Burr probably had a great deal to do with writing the speech and Hickel did a good job of reading it.