

ASNA Tells AFN Oil Men are Interfering with Land Use

Last week, President Emil Notti of the Alaska Federation of Natives sent a telegram to Gov. Walter J. Hickel in protest to the personnel of the oil companies regarding to the treatment of the native people of the Slope in connection with the use of lands traditionally.

The following wire is self-explanatory:

"Alaska Federation of Natives is as gratified as you are with

the discovery of oil on North Slope. Economic development that will follow will create opportunities for hte Native people there. We are extremely distress predictions had affected their own capabilities.

"Today, without a major accident yet to occur attributed to the mishandling of natural

there. We are extremely distressed, however, with the interference by oil companies and the State with lands of the Native people in North Slope area. Two incidents have recently been brought to my attention by Mr. Eben Hopson of Barrow.

"In the first instance an oil company landed eleven barges of materials near Beechey Point and took over lands that had been used and occupied by a Native family since 1920. There were buildings and a cemetery of eight graves on the lands occupied by the oil company. The company allegedly obtained a permit from the State Division of Lands even though all maps show there were cabins located there and the land was obviously used and occupied.

"The second incident involved interference and threats to a Native man who was engaged in subsistence fishing on Colville River. He was told to vacate his traditional fishing site and move to another place.

"We urge you to advise all state offices of the provisions of

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Interfering . . .

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Section 4 of Statehood Act, under which the state forever disclaimed any interest in lands that were being used and occupied by the Native people of Alaska and urge your departments to protect the interests of the Native people before land use permits are issued."