

Second Land Claims Bill . . .

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istration bill sets compensation at 1867 values, about two cents an acre.

Jurisdiction for settling disputes is given primarily to the Court of Claims in the native proposal. The Interior Department's bill gives far more power to the Interior secretary. It provides for only one case in the Court of Claims. This case will be brought by the state attorney general on behalf of all Alaska's natives.

Notti called an emergency session of the AFN board last Sunday. Leaders from all over the state met for three hours at Anchorage. They voted unanimously to oppose the Interior Department bill.

Commercial pilot Fred Notti delivered several members from outlying areas as a public service. His small plane was unable to pick up Barrow and Kotzebue delegates because of bad weather. Bristol Bay also was not represented because its members were busy with the salmon run.

Attending the meeting were Don Wright, Elva Naanes, Cecil Barnes, Flore Lekanof, and Notti from Anchorage; Seraphim Stephan and Fred Bismark, Tyonek; John Borbridge, Jr., Juneau; Frank Degnan, Unalakleet; R. F. Folger, Tanana; Harry Carter, Kodiak; Henry Makarka, Cordova.

Also John Sackett, Huslia, and Fairbanks; Jerome Trigg, Nome; Mike Alex, Eklutna and Harry Mann, Kenai. Telephoning or wiring their opposition to the bill were Tony Lewis, Bethel; Walter Soboleff, Juneau and Oscar Craig, Copper Center.

The board also voted to consider their October meeting a constitutional convention. They will re-examine the present constitution because it was adopted at a meeting where many members were not present.

John Sackett, upon his return to Fairbanks, expressed surprise that two days before native leaders met, Notti had requested Gruening to introduce the native bill. But he added, "It's all to the good. With a look at both sides, we'll get a better bill." (Notti said later he forgot to tell the board about the telegram.)

Notti said no further meetings were planned until the congressional committee hearings were scheduled for Alaska. He said he would work on preparing a Federation presentation for the subcommittee hearings.

In introducing the bill, Pollock said, "Introduction does not imply that I endorse the entire bill." He said he had reservations about provisions in both versions.

"I am especially concerned, as you know, about the effects of the total land freeze now in effect," Pollock said, in a letter to the Tundra Times.

"H.R. 11164 would continue that freeze past enactment of legislation. I feel that such a freeze harms all Alaskans, native and non-native alike."

Pollock also expressed reservations about the Interior Department bill in a letter to Notti.

He objected to villages receiving exclusive mineral rights to their land. "Mineral revenues should be used for the benefit of all natives, regardless of location," Pollock wrote.

Pollock also called for a limited operation should a trust arrangement be necessary. "The belief that the Secretary of the Interior must be the guardian of the native people in all respects should be put to rest," Pollock said. "Our native citizens are fully qualified to decide how their land should be used."

Compensation in the Interior bill is woefully inadequate, Pollock added. If the 1867 date is used for setting land values, less than \$5½ million would be paid out to native people.

Gruening invited others who oppose both versions to submit still other proposals for a land settlement.

"The bill which the Interior Department submitted to me, represents a document which, whatever its form I had repeatedly requested from the department for months, and indeed, years," Gruening said, upon introducing the bill.

Since the bill sponsored by the Department of the Interior "has now been completely rejected by a major organization of native citizens, I have agreed to introduce the bill requested by that group."

Senator Gruening said the people would have a chance to express their positions as freely as possible.

After the Sunday meeting, Notti issued the following statement.

"While we are concerned about the rights that Indians have in the land, we also are concerned with rights others have in the state as Alaskans and as United States citizens. While we exert our effort to protect the native people from exploitation and abuse, we also do not intend to, nor will we cause other citizens to suffer damages of any nature."

"All of the talk of native land claims are misleading. I don't know of one native anywhere who has said, 'I own one square inch of land because of Indian title.' These are not land claims."

They are a protest, and only request clarification of the law.

The Indian did not write the law. The Indian did not write Organic Act of 1884. The Indian did not write the treaty of cession. The Indian did not write the statehood act. And the Indian did not write the constitution of the state of Alaska.

All of these documents and more contribute in some degree to the present situation.

The Indian did not institute the land freeze, though we do not oppose it and yet incredible as it may seem, the Indian is being blamed for the economic ills of the state of Alaska.

After looking the land bill over, it becomes apparent that it is not the kind of legislation that we need to solve the land situation in Alaska.

The bill is in no way acceptable to the native people.

We would like to have our day in court like any other citizen that has rights under law whatever the decision, favorable or adverse.

We do not want to be forever wards of the federal government but we are not willing to stand by and become wards of the state government. The bill would do exactly that.

We have asked our congressional delegation to support our efforts and to support our bill as drawn up in October, 1966 in place of S-964.

I can tell you the native people will not support any candidates whether for state or federal office if they do not support the native people at the time of crisis. The day is forever gone when candidates running for office can pretend to befriend the native people and then perform contrary to our interest.

Tuesday, the Anchorage Daily News quoted lawyer Stanley J. McCutcheon as saying, "The natives' main objection is to the manner in which the secretary's bill would set up a 'lordship' which would continue to control the natives' affairs—exactly the sort of thing they're trying to abolish."

"The administration bill gives the natives no voice in their own affairs," McCutcheon added.

McCutcheon is attorney for the Tyonek Indians and several other native groups. He said he learned from Gruening that both claims bills probably would be merged for the convenience of congressional hearings.

FIRE !!

Forest fires cost Alaska taxpayers more than \$500,000 in suppression costs last year, Earl Plaurde, state forester, reminded Alaskans as he urged caution during the fire season.

The Division of Lands official pointed out that the state is responsible for fire protection on state land and on private land as well.

Resolution Suggests New BIA Phase-Out

A suggested change in the Bureau of Indian Affairs attempt to put itself out of business was suggested recently in Washington. A resolution was introduced to the U.S. Congress by Senator George McGovern, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs. It would supersede H. Con. Res. 108 of 1953 which formalized the so-called termination policy.

The resolution, Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, is purported to encourage Indian self confidence and to foster more autonomy in managing their own affairs.

As reported in The Buckskin, a Enfaula Oklahoma paper, the resolution suggests that:

Deploable conditions can be alleviated only by directing necessary programs and services through governing bodies of Indian groups. These programs should stress self-

determination and self help. New services are needed for full development of native communities. The BIA should coordinate the wide range of federal, state and local resources.

Property is to be protected, culture and identity respected, necessary technical guidance given, natural resources developed and housing improved. Comprehensive health and education programs also are needed.

The Secretary of the Interior is to review the work of BIA and report to Congress annually on necessary legislation.

Native communities are to be given freedom and encouragement to develop their maximum potential.

Eklutna Chief Appreciates Lands Support

George Ondola, chairman of the Eklutna Village Council, wired his thanks to Senator Ernest Gruening Tuesday. Gruening had introduced a native-backed land bill to Congress Monday.

Ondola said, "We natives have gone along with this bill even though it did not receive wide support."

"We were getting a little discouraged about the turn of events concerning our land claims, but we feel much better today because of your support."

He added that he is now "confident the land claims will be mutually resolved."

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