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Would Help Achieve Self-determination—

John Borbridge Acknowledges Receipt of Fund for Claims Effort

AFN, Inc.
1675 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska 9950

October 2, 1970

Ronald K. Huff
Director of
Week of Compassion
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
222 S. Downey
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Mr. Huff:

The Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts of Alaska have institutionalized their strength through the formation of a statewide organization, the Alaska Federation of Natives. Increasing attention has been given to maximizing the means for the involvement of our people in the policy decisions that directly affect them. Thus we are working to shape all pertinent policies and programs that are being im-

plemented by the Federal and State Governments and private industry. We strongly believe that the emergence of the Alaska Natives is one of the most significant developments in the State of Alaska and portends definite progress in our efforts to achieve self-determination.

The \$3,000 grant made possible by the Week of Compassion Committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will enable the Alaska Federation of Natives to effectively continue to address itself to the task of a just land claims settlement and reducing the disparities in the levels of health, education and economic viability of Native and non-Native Alaska. We welcome you to this effort and extend our appreciation for your concern and confidence.

The efforts of the Alaska Federation of Natives to achieve a just and equitable settlement of the long-pending Alaska Native Land claims is the number one

priority item that is currently demanding the bulk of our time and attention. We are currently seeking to persuade Congressman James Haley of Florida, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Indian Affairs, to report a claims bill out of his committee.

Any efforts to persuade Congressman Haley and Congressman Wayne Aspinall of Colorado, Chairman of the House Committee of Interior and Insular Affairs to act on a claims bill this session, would be most helpful. Enclosed is a copy of the position that is being advocated on behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

You will be kept informed as to our activities and progress through the mailing of reports and newsletters. Further background material is enclosed.

Again, our sincere appreciation is extended to the Christian Church, the Week of Compassion Committee, and to you.

Sincerely yours,
John Borbridge, Jr.
First Vice-President
AFN, Inc.

September 25, 1970

Mr. John Borbridge
First Vice-President
Alaska Federation of Natives
Box 529
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mr. Borbridge:

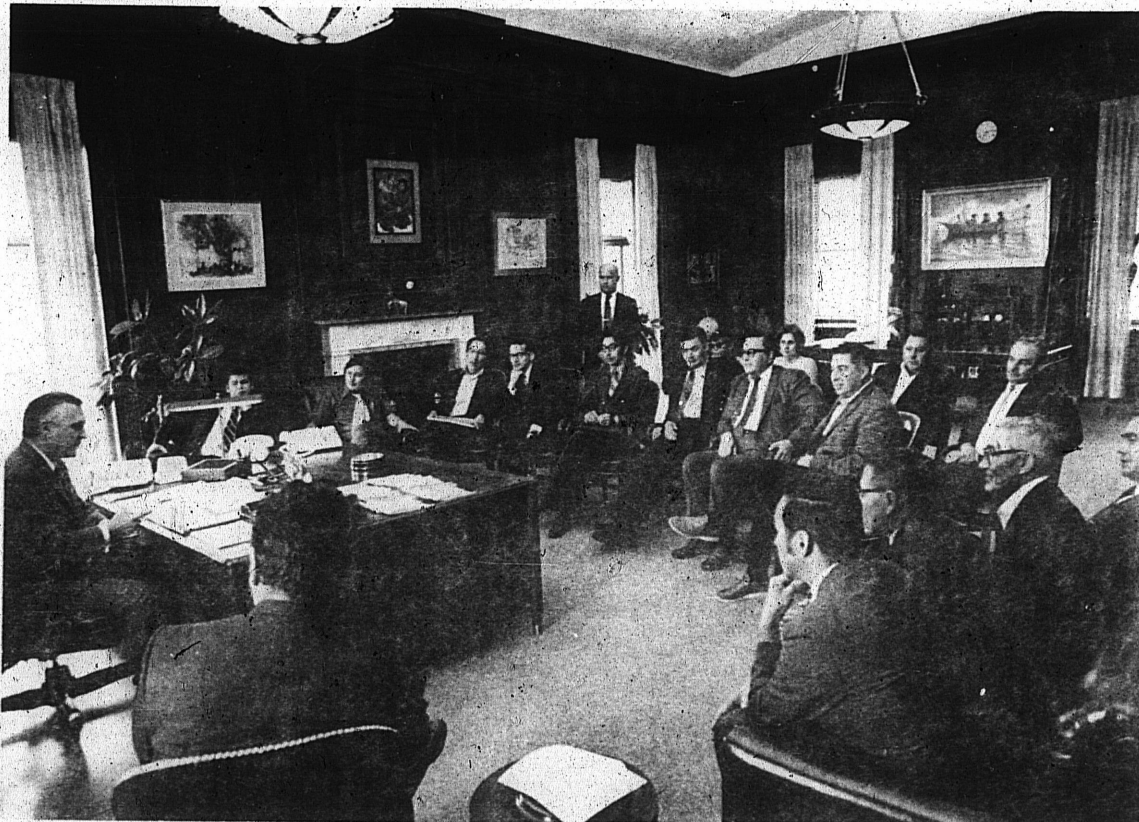
This is to inform you that the enclosed check in the amount of \$3,000 is given to the Alaska Federation of Natives for support of its effort to achieve just and equitable land claims legislation and related work in behalf of Alaskan Natives.

The grant is made possible by action of the Week of Compassion Committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This committee administers special funds of this denomination given by churches for such purposes as combatting hunger, disease, disaster relief, refugee resettlement, social welfare, community development and technical assistance, etc. for needy persons around the world. The Committee feels that the work of AFN is significant in the struggle of Alaskan Natives to achieve relief and stability of life and should, therefore, receive at least a small portion of the assistance churches can offer.

May we ask to be placed on your mailing list for any reports or publications you send out concerning the work of your organization. We earnestly hope this grant will encourage all those engaged in AFN to continue the struggle they have undertaken and that it will, in fact, contribute toward achievement and realization of those goals you seek.

Sincerely yours,
A. Garnett Day, Jr.
Director
Church and Community

Sincerely yours,
Director of
Week of Compassion
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
222 S. Downey
Indianapolis, Indiana 46219



AFN REPRESENTATION—The native people of Alaska are depending heavily on their native leaders shown in the picture conferring with Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel in his office in Washington, D.C. The Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives almost in its entirety is represented in Hickel's office. Those recognizable sitting with Sec. Hickel, far left, are: Tim Wallis, Charled Edwardson, Jr., Eben Hopson, Emil Notti, Rep. William L. Hensley, Alfred Ketzler, John Borbridge, Jr., Frank Degnan, Sen.

Ray Christiansen, and others. As leaders of their native people in all regions of Alaska, the men have the great responsibility of trying to help affect an equitable settlement of the native land claims for their people. The men have proven themselves to be effective in negotiations with U.S. Senate and House committees on matters of complex native land claims matters.

—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Photo