

Editorial—

An Opportune Time For Land Hearings

The U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is planning to hold its version of native land claims hearings in Alaska sometime in October. This means many native leaders will be traveling, probably to Anchorage, to attend it. Some of the delegation members will barely be able to afford to go there because of high transportation costs.

It is also customary for the Alaska Federation of Natives to hold its annual convention in October on the first week of that month in conjunction with the Tundra Times annual anniversary banquet which falls on Saturday October 4 this year in Anchorage, Alaska. Native leaders from every corner of the state numbering about 300 will be converging on the Cook Inlet City for the convention and to attend the banquet.

We think that it would be an opportune time for the House committee to hold its hearings around the time when AFN had its annual meeting in Anchorage. It will be the greatest gathering of the native leadership in the state and its main interest will be the native land claims situation. Since this will be so, it would be a good idea for Chairman Wayne Aspinall and his committee to give it serious consideration. It would not only be a significant time, but it would have the keen interest of the large congregation of native leaders and who are already anticipating the hearings.

If the hearings are held then, it would also mean saving money because many of the native men and women would not have to make a second trip if the hearings are held at another time. Many of the village delegates cannot afford to make a second trip.

We hope Congressman Aspinall will give our suggestion a fair consideration.