

# U.S. HOUSE DECISION UPSET

## U.S. District Judge Gasch Rules Creation Of 13th Corporation

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U.S. District Judge, Oliver Gasch, ruled that a 13th Native regional corporation should be created only three days after a vote in Congress defeated such a corporation.

The ruling may mean the 12 existing regional corporations may lose as much as \$25 million when stock-

holders transfer to the new region. However, the Alaska Federation of Natives is looking to the possibility of cooperation with Outside Natives who may not have understood that they don't receive as many benefits if they form a 13th region.

The suit was brought against the U.S. Interior Department by AFN International, a Seattle-based organization representing a group of non-resident Natives who supported formation of the 13th region. AFN and the Aleut Corporation joined the suit on the side of the Interior Department.

The Department of Interior determined in a 1973 election that non-resident Alaska Natives had turned down establishment

of a 13th Regional Corporation. AFN International challenged the election all the way to the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. where Gasch made the final decision.

Under Gasch's ruling, those who voted to be in the region or who amended their enrollment forms to join the region on or before Aug. 15, 1973, are members of the new region. That would include an estimated 5,000 persons.

John Shively, AFN, executive vice president for land, indicated that the Alaska group would probably not appeal the decision if a compromise could be worked out with AFN International.