

Claims Lawyer Hits Lag in Fund Raising

March 13, 1968

AN OPEN LETTER

Gentlemen:

In my opinion, the national drive relating to the Alaska Native Land Claims Compromise Bill has not amounted to a tempest in a teapot. I have heard no word from the Association of American Indians or any national organization. The lawyers have shown no enthusiasm jointly to associate a Washington, D. C., lawyer! There have been no substantial efforts to get a public relations man. And finally, and most importantly, there is a decided lack of funds.

The state effort is not the most important part of our

(Continued on page 2)

Lawyer Hits Lethargy ..

(Continued from page 1)

problem. The federal effort is the IMPERATIVE one!

At the risk of being insulting, I think the whole shebang in Alaska are naive. The old saying is that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Congress rarely passes a bill merely because it is just; they must know that many votes care deeply about it. We need thousands of letters sent to Wayne N. Aspinall, Chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, requesting a hearing in the near future in Alaska. Telegrams are helpful. All that these petitions, letters, and telegrams need say is that the natives have a meritorious claim, that the bill has merit, that the natives, the Interior Department, and the State of Alaska have got some sort of a compromise mostly agreed to, and that Congress should interest itself in the problem enough to hold hearings. No technical language is necessary.

But I say unto you, somebody better light a firecracker under this lethargy or your bill will be just as silently killed.

Yours very truly,
Frederick Paul
Attorney for the Arctic
Slope Native Association