

# Tlingit and Haida Indians Came Out Against Capitol Move

JUNEAU — The Tlingit and Haida Indians of Southeastern Alaska came out strongly opposed to the Capitol move it was learned by the Tundra Times.

In speaking to a Juneau Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Robert Willard, executive director of the Tlingit and Haida Contractors Association also said "the urban centers need our vil-

lages, more than the villages need the urban centers — and that includes Juneau."

Willard gave a status report of the Tlingit and Haida Central Council activities to the capital city business and community leaders recently.

He outlined the nine departments which involve upwards of \$50 million in programs beneficial to the Tlingit and Haida, and reported "Tlingit and Haida infuses well over \$2 million into the local (Juneau) economy," thus, establishing the Tlingit and Haida as a "viable economic force in the city and borough of Juneau."

The director also revealed the council's plans for the future

which could include: acquisition of jet foils (high speed passenger and cargo ships); purchasing and operating the Glacier Bay Lodge tourist resort; tug and barge operations and developing tourist facilities in all Southeastern villages.

"These indicators point out several facts," Willard said, "one point that comes across loud and clear is that the urban centers, need our villages more so than the villages need the urban centers."

The record (of the villages) is clear, he said, "The smaller communities have survived despite the lack of adequate transportation; without jobs or job opportunities, without adequate educational facilities and numerous other factors that make up a viable economy."

In speaking against the Capitol move, Willard said, "there are too many economic considerations that the entire state would be confronted with" if the capitol were to be moved.

"Somewhere along the line, the priorities (by proponents) in terms of necessities are on reverse" he said.

He asserted that the ones who would suffer the most (economically) would be rural Alaska residents, apparently referring

to programs that would be cut to offset the cost of moving the Capitol.

Willard told the Tundra Times later that "if the Capitol move were to cost \$500 million, there will have to be a listing of priorities statewide, and when programs start getting out because of increased costs and low revenues, it will be bush programs that will be cut first."

The Tlingit and Haida Cen-

tral Council represents approximately 16,000 persons and it is recognized as a tribal council by the federal government.

The council was established in 1968 when the U.S. Court of Claims awarded \$7.5 million to the Tlingits and Haidas for their loss of more than 16 million acres of land in the governments establishing the Tongass National Forest and the Glacier Bay National Monument.

## Against Move

FAIRBANKS — Michael T. Cook, state co-chairman of Alaskans United from Fairbanks, announced formation of an eight-member steering committee of Fairbanks civic leaders against the Capitol Move Initiative on the Aug. 27 primary ballot.

Along with Mrs. Carolyn G. Bushey, Fairbanks vice chairman of Alaskans United, Cook named the following persons to serve on the committee:

Mary A. Nordale, E. Al Parrish, Rodger C. Hughes, Barry W. Jackson, Mrs. Sandy Nussbaum, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Lomen, Dr. Paul B. Haggland and Ralph R. Migliaccio.