

Arson burns Ahtna's building

To the Editor:

Not too very long ago, someone attempted to burn down the Ahtna building in Copper Center, this belonging to Ahtna Inc. of Copper Center, a Native Corporation in that area. Why was it done and by whom? I am one-hundred percent sure that it was not be a shareholder.

It was called arson by the local police and fire marshall, but I say it was terrorism at its worst, aimed at the Native population and only as a warning and all because someone wants what doesn't belong to them.

Other acts have been committed in which guns were pointed at Natives in this very same area done by one person who would try to instill fear in Native people, another act that is terrorism, all aimed to frighten Native people.

The same can be said about the government who considers themselves sovereign superior and another inferior. I call it abuse of good will and stealing, and if we continue to let this happen, then we are wrong.

Native land can be said to be all of Alaska, which it is, as we have not publicly ceded to any other government in any form.

My people deserve better than what they have recieved, the right to sovereign governing on all their original lands, the right to share in all of the wealth, to economically develop, to be set before Native courts on differences of opinions and sovereign immunity from laws binding them.

As Isreal has successfully reclaimed that which was theirs, so shall we. The United States cannot buy what is not saleable as these lands were not. Nor can laws be written to effectively override an existing government.

To quote some court decision, Oliphant vs. Suquamish, 1978, US 55 L ED 2D 209 98 S CT 1011; when it was stated, "The intrinsic limitations imposed on Indian Tribal authority by the overriding of sovereignty of the United States are not restricted to

limitations on the tribes power to transfer lands or to excersize external political Soveriegnty."

But, our right to soveriegnty is no less than any nations. Until Political justice is accomplished

no Native Man, Woman or Child should rest.

Than You
Clarence McConkey
Copper Center, AK 99573

RS-2477 opposed

To the Editor:

At the December 6, 1984 Board of Directors Meeting of Baan o yeel kon Corporation (ANCSA: Rampart Village Corporation), Resolution No. 84-11 "ADDRESSING PROPOSED PLOTTING OF RS 2477 RIGHTS OF WAY TO PUBLIC LAND RECORDS" was unanimously adopted. The Resolution is enclosed.

It clearly states our reasons for opposing the plotting of RS 2477 rights-of-way to the public land records agreed upon in a memorandum of understanding between the State of Alaska and the Bureau of Land Management.

It is of utmost importance that a continuous line of communication and working relationship remains open between the State of Alaska, Bureau of Land Management, ANCSA Corporations and other pertinent entites in order to achieve clear title to our lands, without further cumbersome delays and larger expenses imposed upon all of us.

WEREAS, the State of Alaska and Bureau of Land Management have entered into a memorandum of understanding to identify and plot RS 2477 rights-of-way to the public land records; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations are major land holders which may be severely impacted by this action without an opportunity to participate in the decisions; and

WHEREAS, the notation of the public land records provides the State of Alaska with added weight, in the case of litigation of RS 2477 rights-of-way, without a factual basis; and

WHEREAS, neither the State nor Bureau of Land Management propose to adjudicate RS 2477 rights-of-way under the terms of the memorandum of understanding; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Baan o yeel kon Corporation Board of Directors that Baan o yeel kon Corporation Board of Directors opposes the plott of RS 2477 rights-of-way to the public land records unless:

a) Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act corporations are actively involved int he indentification process, and

b) Bureau of Land Management and the State establish clear standards of construction and use against which all RS 2477 rights-of-way are to be weighted, and

c) The issue of abandonment is clearly defined and addressed, and

d) Each RS 2477 rights-of-way is adjudicated by Bureau of Land Management, and

e) An accurate centerline description is provided to Bureau of Land Management prior to plotting, and

f) A case file is established which sets out the history of the RS 2477 rights-of-way together with complete documentation of the timing, duration, and amount of use.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the, Alaska Federation of Natives, Bureau of Land Management State Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Congressional Delegation in Washington DC and State of Alaska legislators.

DULY ADOPTED THIS 6th day of December 1984 in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Mary Jane Fate, President