

Editorial—

The Stake Is Big and Worth Fighting For

What turned out to be rather sparkling has turned somewhat sour yesterday. Congressman Wayne Aspinall is threatening to block the claims bill he helped to put through the House Indian Affairs Subcommittee. The powerful chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is balking at the possibility that the Alaska Federation of Natives will be seeking additional lands in the bill that just came out of the subcommittee.

This is indeed the time to think of many things by all concerned and, of course, especially by the AFN. The new challenge will not be easy to face, but we are of the idea that the statewide group has every right to ask for what it believes to be equitable. The AFN has a powerful opponent in the person of Aspinall but it has the right to fight for what it believes. The men and women within the organization are fighting for good things for their children in the future. This is worth fighting for. Even Congressman Aspinall can recognize this. He has fought well for what he believed in the past and he should not deny the same right Alaska natives have in trying for the best possible settlement they can try to achieve for the good of their people.

The stake is a big one. It is worth fighting for.