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## Interior ready to step in for subsistence

By LINDA LORD-JENKINS  
Tundra Times Editor

The federal government will take almost immediate steps to assume control of all fish and game resources on federal lands if the Alaska Fish and Game Advisory Boards do not adopt a subsistence regulation outlining subsistence user priorities, a federal Department of Interior official told the boards on Monday.

Bill Horn, deputy under-secretary of the Interior, told

the boards that the Department of Interior would have no choice but to take steps to take control of fish and game because of the Alaska National Interest Lands Act.

That act, passed in 1980, gave the state of Alaska one year to set out regulations establishing a rural user subsistence category and that one year passed on Dec. 2, 1981, said Horn. He said the department was waiting to see what the Alaska Fish and Game De-

partment and the advisory boards do in their spring meeting before taking action.

Horn spoke to the boards and a packed meeting room as he also said that the federal control might extend to some non-federal lands if subsistence users are threatened in fish catches.

Answering a question from Game Board Chairman Clint Buckmaster of Sitka, about what the federal government would do about fishing priori-

ties; Horn said that although the Department hadn't issued a statement on that matter to date, "obviously we would have to take steps to ensure that subsistence fishing is provided for. It may be in some areas that we'd have to skim off some (fish) from the top ... for subsistence users. There would have to be some form of first cut to insure" subsistence users can obtain fish even if their traditional fishing spots are not on federal land.

"Our primary job would be to insure that 'x'-amount of fish get to the subsistence users and if we have to, we will use the (federal) supremacy clause to make sure that occurs. If we didn't do that, we'd probably have some friendly federal judge making that decision for us," said Horn.

He said he is uncertain if the federal intervention in state

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PHOTO BY BILL HESS

Georgianna Lincoln of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, testifies at a recent Bureau of Indian Affairs hearing while few people sit in the audience. Lincoln and others protested the hearing's location and lack of notice.

## BIA hearings bring protest, little comment

By LINDA LORD-JENKINS  
Tundra Times Staff

Only six people testified last week at a hearing in Anchorage to take public comment on planned closing of 37 Bureau of Indian Affairs Day Schools.

Those who did testify criticized the short amount of time that the hearings were publicized, the location of the hearings — far away from any of the village schools which are marked for closure — and the plan to close the schools entirely.

A representative from the village of Tetlin in the Interior presented a petition containing 72 signatures in opposition to transferring the Tetlin day school to state control.

Some 37 students attend that school and parents want them to remain in the BIA facility.

The hearings were held in the federal court house in Anchorage but their location was the subject of sharp criticism from representatives from the Association of Village Council Presidents area and the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

But both Carl Jack, repre-  
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## General assistance injunction denied

By LINDA LORD-JENKINS  
Tundra Times Staff

A Federal Court Judge in Anchorage this week refused to grant a temporary order which would direct that Bureau of Indian Affairs general assistance subsidies continue to be sent to Alaska Natives as representatives of other Alaska Native organizations watched for problems and considered filing suits of their own.

Federal District Judge James A. von der Heydt on Monday refused to grant a restraining order and temporary injunction sought on behalf of five people who wanted the general assistance payments continued until a full hearing could be held.

The suit was brought by Alaska Legal Service Attorneys on behalf of the five who stated they would suffer

greatly if the monthly general assistance subsidies are cut. Approximately 37,000 Alaska Natives received general assistance payments last year.

In the meantime, representatives of the Tanana Chiefs Conference and several TCC area villages, and the Association of Village Council Presidents were considering filing similar suits to force

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## No cheese at \$10/pound

Residents of Tyonek recently decided to pass by some "free" cheese that costs \$10 per pound.

The cheese, about 107,000 pounds of processed American cheese, is flooding the state at the behest of President Ronald Reagan who ordered that about 30 million pounds of the stuff be distributed to the needy throughout the country.

The cheese was sent to 29 distribution points throughout the state with one in Anchorage. That's where the problem came in.

Robert Nielson, manager of the Food Bank of Alaska, says his group was given the responsibility of disposing the cheese throughout the municipality of Anchorage but no where else.

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