

AFN's Jim Thomas Lines Up Indian Pow-Wow at Tacoma

Jim Thomas, public relations director of the Alaska Federation of Natives, concluded his whirlwind tour of Washington State this week.

The tour was the initial step in an effort to arouse statewide support in Washington for the native land claims position.

Discussing results of the trip, Thomas said that the Washington Council of Churches passed a resolution that the general board of the council "support the early, equitable and just settlement of Alaska Native Land Claims and urge our congregations and their members to make known this support to their Senators and Representatives in the U.S. Congress."

Also, Thomas stressed that the Presbyterian Life magazine with a circulation of one million plans to do a story on the Alaska Native Land Claims.

Future appearances at several churches in the Seattle area were arranged with more engagements expected.

Contacts were made this week with the news media in Olympia, Centralia, Vancouver, and Longview.

In his nearly two-week trip, Thomas not only visited churches and representatives of the news media, but also laid the way for a "Pow-Wow" Feb. 7 in the Pacific Lutheran University gymnasium. About 1,000 are expected to attend with invitations going to dignitaries such as Walter J. Hickel, U.S. Secretary of the

Interior and the Alaskan delegation in Washington.

The Pow-wow will serve as the kick-off for a concentrated effort to "drum up" support for the natives position and will sound the arrival of several AFN members who will be speaking

throughout Washington.

Tentatively the speakers will be as follows: Emil Notti, president of the AFN, principle speaker; Don Wright—labor oriented groups; Margaret Nick—colleges and universities; Showalter Smith—churches.