

# T-H CENTRAL OFFICE MOVING

## Anchorage Office of Tlingit and Haida to Be Moved to Juneau

Transfer of the offices of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska from Anchorage to Juneau was announced by president and general manager John Borbridge, Jr., who also indicated that the executive committee of the organization had unanimously approved such a move in its meeting in Sitka on Sunday, Feb. 1.

It is contemplated that the move would be completed within 90 days.

The move was made to enable the organization to more directly and effectively serve its 14,000 southeast Alaska constituents who reside in 18 member communities that extend from Oakland, California to Anchorage, Alaska.

The Central Council, organized under an act of Congress, is granted congressional authority to develop plans for the use and disposition of judgment funds received in satisfaction of a favorable land claims decision in the U.S. Court of Claims.

Reasons for the office trans-

fer include:

a. The official position of the Alaska Federation of Natives is that participation in the land claims settlement by the State of Alaska is necessary.

Thus a close working relationship with the state is necessitated by the need to press for its participation in the settlement provisions, and the coordination that must ensue during the post settlement period. Juneau thus becomes a focal point.

b. The Alaska Federation of Natives has effectively undertaken stabilization of its in-house administrative functions, and has moved significantly for its maturity as an organization.

c. The Central Council will continue its key role in the statewide land claims, but regards the native regional organization concept as vital. The organization is formerly structuring its member communities, and will now consolidate its office functions in anticipation of future growth.

Thus, while the Congress debates as to the possibility of creating regional native corporations, the Central Council will function as one.

d. The Central Council anticipates that the necessary change in relationship between itself and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will result in government functions being contracted to the native entity. This concept will be advanced on the BIA area office level.

e. The southeast organization

(Continued on page 6)

# T-H Central Office...

(Continued from page 1)

is in a position to coordinate growth efforts with industry in southeast Alaska, and it will aggressively seek such a relationship as a partner in this development in its area and its state. The benefits of future growth and development must also accrue to our people.

Present at the Feb. 1 Central Council Executive Committee meeting in Sitka were: John Borbridge, Jr., president and general manager, Anchorage; Charles Nelson, first vice president, Ketchikan; Richard Kito, vice president, Petersburg; Roger Lang, vice president, Sitka; James Thomas, Secretary, Anchorage; and Harvey Marvin, treasurer, Mt. Edgecumbe.

Other business items discussed at the meeting which opened at 9 a.m. Feb. 1 and concluded with a four-hour public meeting at the Sitka ANB Hall ending at 1:00 p.m. on Feb. 2 included the status of:

a. An EDA proposal which

will add three full-time professional planners to the Central Council staff as it gears up for the future.

b. The Tlingit and Haida distribution bill which will make \$6.8 million in judgment fund money available to the Tlingit and Haidas possibly as early as May of 1970.

c. A proposal for the improvement of communications between the 18 member organizations through the use of a video-tape network.

d. The development of guidelines for a supplementary program for the care of our elderly people and a program that would supplement resources available to Tlingit and Haida citizens seeking an education.

The Central Council also reviewed actions taken in two instances in which the organization had defended Tlingit subsistent fishermen against prosecution by the State of Alaska in Klukwan and Sitka.