

Steve Hotch Testifies

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Recently, Steven V. Hotch of Klukwan appeared before the congressional delegation, state officials and the Chamber of Commerce at Ketchikan and presented the following testimony.)

My name is Steven V. Hotch, a member of the Tlingit-Haida Central Council. I represent the Tlingit-Haida members from Klukwan-Haines area.

We are objecting the various pieces of legislation which are designed to eliminate NATIVE Reserves in Alaska. We are therefore submitting our strong opposition to those sections of proposed legislation designed to take lands from people without their consent.

We as a group have a strong interest in our land because seven trial judges in the United States Court of Claims, on the 19th day of January, 1968 ruled unanimously that Indian title to area 6 was not extinguished. Therefore, the Tlingit-Haida Indians were not compensated for area 6 to which they still hold title. This area 6 is in the Lynn Canal area where I come from.

On the 14th day of November, 1969, the 57th Annual Grand Convention of the Alaska Native Brotherhood adopted a resolution to support Alaska Land Claims Legislation, Senate Bill 3401; with the amendment to protect Klukwan and Yundestucky Indian Village Reservations.

Klukwan itself is covered by 894.70 acres of reservation and contains the richest iron ore deposits in the whole state of Alaska. Therefore, we are requesting support to leave Klukwan Reserve in its present status. We are strongly objecting to any legislation that is designed to eliminate Klukwan and Yundestucky Indian Reservations.