

Approves Yakima Loan

Eben Hopson, Executive Director of the Alaska Federation of Natives, announced last week that the Bureau of Indian Affairs, has given its final approval to a \$225,000 loan to the Federation from the Yakima Indian Nation of Washington State.

Hopson said, "This loan will be of great assistance to AFN in its efforts to obtain a just and fair settlement of Alaska Native Land Claims."

Hopson expressed his gratification to the Yakima tribe for their willingness to make the loan.

"We are deeply appreciative," he said, "that the Yakimas have seen fit to help us at a time

when it is absolutely essential to make an intensified effort to achieve a solution to a problem which has remained unresolved for over a 100 years."

He pointed out that the loan will be secured by an assignment which would permit the Yakimas to look to proceeds of the legislative settlement for repayment of the loan.

In the Senate version of the legislation, which was passed in mid-July, there is a provision earmarking \$350,000 to be used to reimburse the Federation for its expenses in pressing for Congressional action.