

# ASNA Countermoves Against Oil—

## *Eskimos Intervene in their Own Behalf in Borough Suit*

In a dramatic countermove Friday, April 21, The Arctic Slope Natives intervened in their own behalf in the controversial North Slope borough lawsuit.

Under the leadership of Joe Upicksoun and Charlie Edwardson, Jr., The Arctic Slope Native Association and the Inupiat communities of the Arctic Slope, the fourth class villages of Barrow, Kaktovik, Anaktuvuk Pass, Wainwright, and Point Hope, applied to the Superior Court in Anchorage for permission to intervene in a lawsuit against the formation of the North Slope borough by seven major oil companies and five local interests.

The powerful conglomerate

tion of oil interests, including Mobil Oil Corp., Amerada Hess Corp., Amoco Products Production Co., BP Oil Corp., Humble Oil, Phillips Petroleum, and Union Oil of California, joined by Frontier Rock and Sand, Mukluk Freight Lines, Inc., Clifford C. Burglin, Locke Jacogs, and Frank Novosel, have sought to block the creation of the borough on the charges that "as presently proposed, it does not meet the constitutional and statutory standards for organized boroughs."

The oil firms filed suit on March 28 against the State of Alaska's Local Boundary Commission, which had authorized the borough. The Commission is being defended

by the Attorney General's office.

Although the Arctic Slope Native Association were the proponents who made the application for borough status over a year ago, the oil companies did not name them as a party to the lawsuit.

"What we did Friday," said Frederick Paul, attorney for ASNA, "was to apply for authority to participate in the case. We wanted to be in a position where we could express our views."

The oil companies also have an application to restrain the June 20 election ordered by the Lieutenant Governor. The arguments will be heard in Anchorage, Wednesday,

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# ASNA Intervenes . . .

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April 26. Charles Cranston, Assistant Attorney General, has been assigned to represent the Local Boundary Commission.

"Notwithstanding the State's defense of the borough," said Mr. Paul, "we felt we could be more secure if we could get in there on our own."

In no way disparaging the Attorney General's office, Mr. Paul pointed out that "ob-

viously the results mean much more to the Eskimos than to the Attorney General's office. The Eskimos want to make sure they are protected."

The hearing on the merits of the borough lawsuit may be several months away but Wednesday's arguments will be an important forerunner, and the Arctic Slope peoples, in securing their own representation, are leaving nothing to chance.