

# Won't Give Environmental Impact Statement

Fighting every step of the way for their rights, the Arctic Slope Native people must still battle over even the simplest requests.

On March 21, the attorney for the Arctic Slope Native Association, Frederick Paul, of Seattle, addressed a letter to Rogers C.B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior, requesting copies of the Environmental Impact Statement on the trans-Alaska pipeline to be sent to the attorneys and to Joseph Upik-soun, president, Barrow; Herman Rexford, Kaktovik; John Oktolik, Point Hope; David Kagik, Wainwright; and Riley Morrey, Anaktuvuk Pass; "all parties directly in interest".

On April 13, the Department replied with the following letter:

Frederick Paul, Esq.  
Paul, Henry, Wheeler, Burton &  
Meade  
3201 Seattle - First National  
Bank Building  
Seattle, Washington 98154

Dear Mr. Paul:

Concerning your letter to Secretary Morton of March 21, 1972, we regret that we cannot comply with your request for copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement of the Proposed Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. Because the Statement is contained in six volumes, and costs \$30.00 per set, we are unable to meet the many public requests for free copies.

Copies of the Statement are, however, available from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, Virginia 22151. The details are contained on the last page of the enclosed News Release.

In addition, copies of the Statement are available for inspection at the locations listed in the above mentioned News Release.

Sincerely yours,

David K. Grayson  
Attorney  
Division of Public Lands

Mr. Paul, a long-time fighter in the struggle to gain the Native

peoples their legal rights, then contacted Senator Henry M. Jackson in Washington, D.C., asking for his assistance in obtaining the needed copies.

"It is simply dreadful," wrote Mr. Paul, "that the Eskimo of the North Slope are not provided copies of the Impact Statement on a voluntary basis, and it is doubly worse to have the Department turn the Eskimos down after a specific request."

"I happen to know," Mr.

Paul continued, "that the Department has given away copies of the nine volumes free to hundreds of applicants — newspapers, news media, libraries, oil companies, environmentalists, etc."

In bringing this to the attention of Howard Rock, Tundra Times editor, Mr. Paul commented very simply but strongly that "The Department's lack of concern for the people of the North Slope . . . simply outrages me."