

KODIAK ATTORNEY SUGGESTS NATIVES ACQUIRE NAVY PET 4

Gruening Requested to Urge Congressional Action for Pet 4 Switch

A Kodiak attorney, Roy H. Madsen, has made a formal request of Sen. Ernest Gruening that he (Gruening) use his influence that Congress consider turning over to the native people of Alaska the Petroleum Reserve No. 4 in place of a cash settle-

ment for native land claims.

Attorney Madsen based his request on Section 11 (b) of the Alaska Statehood Act which reserves to Congress exclusive power of legislation over "tracts of parcels of land in the State owned by the United States and held for military, Naval, Air Force or Coast Guard purposes..."

Madsen suggests that consideration be given to congressional action giving administrative rights and control of the reserve to a trustee for the Alaska native people for their use and benefit.

He said this would be an alternative to a cash settlement for the native land claims "in view of the existing budgetary problems facing the Congress."

The following is the full text of Roy Madsen's request to Sen. Gruening:

"I refer you to Section 11 (b) of the Alaska Statehood Act

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Poses Natives Acquire Pet 4 . . .

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which reserves to Congress the power of exclusive legislation over tracts of parcels of land in the State owned by the United States and held for Military, Naval, Air Force or Coast Guard purposes, including Naval Petroleum Reserve Numbered Four and suggest consideration be given to congressional action transferring dominion and control of Naval Petroleum Reserve Numbered Four to a trustee for the Alaska native people, for their use and benefit, in lieu of or as an alternative to a cash settlement for the Native Land Claims in view of the existing budgetary problems facing the Congress."

The Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 is a 23 million acre expanse of land withdrawn under the executive order during President Warren Harding's administration. It was established on February 27, 1923.

The location of the reserve roughly follows from a point 100 miles southeast of Point Hope, on a straight line from there to Icy Cape, on around to Barrow and up the coast to the mouth of Colville River.

The border then follows the

Colville upriver and then follow, roughly, the ridges of the Brooks Range to the point 100 miles southeast of Point Hope.

At least one of the largest oil discoveries have been made recently toward the eastern section of the Petroleum Reserve No. 4. The finds have been evaluated as some of the richest in the world.

The Atlantic Richfield Co. Prudhoe Bay discovery well has been tested and it can produce up to 2,415 barrels of oil per day.

NAVAL PETROLEUM RESERVE NO. 4 IN THE ARCTIC

