

4-Day Continuous Meets Scheduled For Con. Committee

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 23)—When the joint Conference Committee on Alaska Native land claims legislation begins further meetings November 30, it will continue to meet until the legislators agree upon a claims bill.

Four days have been scheduled for November 30th at 2:30 p.m.; December 1st at 9:30 a.m.; December 2 at 2:30 p.m.; and December 3 at 9:30

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a.m.

The land selection formula is believed to be the first order of business for the Senators and Congressmen assigned to that committee.

Dispensing with the customary rhetoric, the conferees are intent on initiating negotiations as soon as the meeting begins. There are three distinct formulas for land selection.

Senator Stevens proposes a 40 million acre selection of land contiguous to native villages. This selection would occur prior to any state selection.

The Alaska Federation of Natives and Senator Gravel desire 30 million acres of land contiguous to villages and 10 million acres in free floating selection. This 40 million acre selection is requested prior to state selection.

While a lull in lobbying efforts by interested groups now exists, mail to Congressional offices from Alaska is overwhelmingly in opposition to the AFN position. Members of the AFN Board of Directors will return to Washington early next week to launch its final lobbying effort before the conferees make their decision.