

Hope is new President of The Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

(Juneau)—Andrew John Hope, Jr. of Juneau was elected President of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska for a 2 year term, succeeding Raymond E. Paddock, Jr.

The Annual Convention of the Central Council, a federally-recognized tribe, was held October 6-8, 1980 at the Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Center and was attended by over 70 delegates from Alaska, Washington, and California. The Convention also saw the election of 6 Vice Presidents constituting the Executive Committee, and the conduct of other business affecting the tribal governing body of 16,000 Tlingit and Haida Indians.

Elected to the Executive Committee for 2 year terms were Raymond E. Paddock, Jr. of Juneau, Richard George of Angoon, Elizabeth Walters of Nome, Mark Jacobs, Jr. of Sitka, Charles Nelson of Ketchikan,

and Tom Abel of Craig.

President Hope said, "I am pleased to assume the responsibility of heading the organization that my family has been active in since its inception. My father, Andrew Hope, was one of the first leaders of the Tlingit & Haida and was largely responsible for its emergence."

Outgoing President Paddock said, "I offer my support to Mr. Hope. I'm happy that I'm still part of the first string. I feel that my experience of the past seven years will be used to benefit the transitional period of the new administration."

In other action, the convention accepted an out of court settlement in the amount of approximately \$85,000 in the case before the United States Court of Claims. The case was brought on behalf of the Tlingit & Haida Indian tribes and other tribes for mismanagement by the United States of funds in the tribes' trust accounts in the US Treasury. In effect, the tribes

lost interest on the monies, and this claim was to regain that loss.

The convention went on record as strongly opposing the closure of the Mt. Edgecumbe School. The delegates were privileged to hear the remarks of Edgecumbe Student Body President, Donna Kious, and Chrystal Stevens of Emmonak.

Hope is the Acting Area Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He has a long history of involvement in the three principal Alaska Native organizations of the region. He is past Grand President of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, and currently is a member of the Board of Directors of Sealaska Corporation, the largest of 13 regional corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The Convention reviewed the past year's audit, and adopted a budget for the coming year. The audit showed that the Tlingit-Haida original judgement fund had increased by approximately \$400,000 this past year

bringing its total balance up to approximately \$7.2 million. The fund had fallen to about \$5.2 million in past years, and the convention was pleased to see the fund approach the original settlement of \$7.6 million. To continue this trend, the body adopted a goal to increase the judgement fund to \$10 million by 1990.

Several guest speakers addressed the delegates, notably Mr. I.S. "Lefty" Weissbrodt, attorney of the law firm initiating the original Tlingit & Haida land

suit, and Mr. John Borbridge, Jr., past President of the Central Council and an active participant in the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The convention considered over 56 resolutions, concerning fisheries, subsistence, native heritage preservation, housing, education, health, services to Tlingit & Haida urban natives, problems of the youth, changes to the Tlingit & Haida rules of election, conflict of interest, and the Southeast Alaska Native Women's Conference.