

Subsistence Vs. Development

By MARGIE BAUMAN

ANCHORAGE—Interior Department officials planned to ask Congress Tuesday to set aside over 83 million acres of Alaska for national parks, forests and sild and scenic rivers.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act had allowed for withdrawal of up to 80 million acres, but the convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. Sunday was advised that Interior would seek more.

Dr. Lawrence Lynn, the assistant Secretary of the Interior who outlined Interior's plans before the assembled Native leadership, confirmed later in the day that he would resign that post and that of head of the Alaska Task Force.

"These recommendations are still secret, so don't tell anyone," joked Lynn loudly at the start of his presentation, but his tone turned more serious as he relayed plans of Interior officials to recommend inclusion of over 32 million acres of Alaska into national parks and over 21 million acres into wildlife refuges.

Lynn's assurance that "the Natives have enjoyed priority in

our thinking hardly assured the Native leadership present, especially John Borbridge Jr., president of Sealaska Corp.

Borbridge charged Interior officials with subordinating the interests in certain land selections and asked, "Why hasn't the department championed our cause?"

Also strongly critical was Joe Josephson, state co-chairman of the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska.

Josephson said the LUPC would not formally react until Interior Secretary Rogers Morton made his recommendations to Congress, but Josephson was plainly angered over Interior demands for land that grew larger and larger.

"It's kind of like a man trying to eat a single potato chip," he said. Josephson said issues vital to Alaska in regard to this land, including future transportation corridors, were totally unresolved by Interior's recommendations.

"I don't know if Interior thought subsistence rule should be under jurisdiction of the Secretary—or under State Fish and Game," he said. "It's very vital

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to every Alaskan that this aspect of state sovereignty be preserved," he said.

"These issues were not addressed and they should be addressed as we go to Congress," he said.

Gov. William A. Egan meanwhile, in his keynote address, said he was "seriously concerned about the possible adverse affects on our state's future that are presented" by Morton's proposals.

"I would hope that very sub-

stantial and meaningful changes will have been made in these proposals upon their formal submission to Congress on Dec. 18," the governor said.

Egan said he felt, from what he'd seen of the proposals that "many aspects of land use that are vital to Alaska's future well-being were completely discounted or overlooked.

"The recommendations lack an over-all, long-range perspective regarding federal, state or Native lands," he said.

"T h e s e recommendations have been characterized, or at least thought of in the public mind, as a complete finished product that brings to a final resolve all the various and complicated land-use considerations involved in them.

"They are by no means that and they leave untreated or partially treated many land-use questions that will haunt us for years to come unless corrective action is taken previous to their final adoption by Congress," Egan said.

The governor referred to state transportation needs and similarly, the matter of maintaining subsistence capability of fish and game resources within the federally withdrawn lands.

"Subsistence need is a matter involving the traditional control by a state over two of its very important resources. . . which is especially critical in the case of Alaska as evidenced by the sorry record of fisheries declines under federal control during territorial days," Egan said.

The governor said all recommendations proposed, except forest service lands, ought to be subjected to a 10-year study period for possible wilderness designations.