

Hensley's Presidency

ANCHORAGE—State Sen. Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue, Sunday outlined the problems and progress of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. in 1973 and predicted a bright future for the statewide organization.

The Eskimo legislator, who resigned as president of AFN several weeks ago, told the annual convention of the AFN that "I see an extremely bright future for AFN. By working together through AFN, we, as Native people, can "put our minds together and make great lids for our children."

Hensley warned, however, that the organization still faced several major problems.

"We still have approximately \$100,000 of indebtedness which has been incurred by AFN since the settlement," Hensley said. "We are negotiating with the regional corporations to pay this off."

Hensley also cited non-participation of the Aleut Corporation and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation in AFN as a major problem. "I firmly believe all regions must work together if the land claims settlement is to succeed," he said. "I know that all the regions are not going to agree on all issues. However, we

must find the issues our common interests on behalf of all the Alaska Natives," he said.

Hensley also outlined major areas addressed by AFN since reorganization in the late fall of 1972, including negotiation of a major change in the number of jobs Natives will receive during construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline.

"We are now guaranteed 1,000 jobs the first year and at least 3,500 jobs during the three-year construction period," he noted. Alyeska Pipeline Service Company had proposed 400 jobs the first year and 2,200 total jobs.

AFN is also working on behalf of the regional corporations to secure exemptions from Security Exchange Commission regulations adopted as a result of federal laws passed in 1933, 1934 and 1940. "If we secure these exemptions, the regional corporations will be saved thousands of dollars which would have been spent on unnecessary reporting requirements," Hensley said.

AFN is also working with the state of Alaska to protect Native subsistence rights; to persuade the state to withdraw its protests on the eligibility of cer-

tain Native villages, determine the state's responsibilities as the custodian of some Natives under 18 years of age, and to determine a reasonable method by which the state will administer trust funds it will receive for its communities who have no municipal government.

The statewide body also counts several other major political accomplishments over the past year, including:

- successful negotiation for an amendment on the Interior appropriations bill to allow the regions to pay off the loans to the Tyonek Indians, National Bank of Alaska and the Yakima Tribe.

- the effort to secure decent rules and regulations from the Interior Department on land selections.