

ANCSA Payment Made Wednesday

Federal District Court Judge Oliver Gasch Tuesday released the \$130 million balance of \$138 million due Dec. 18 under provision of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Gasch's action came in Washington, D.C. along with orders for a hearing in January to decide whether another election on creation of a 13th regional Native corporation should be held.

A dispute over the election in which creation of the 13th region was defeated had caused a delay over distribution of the \$130 million. It was learned in the midst of the Alaska Federation of Natives convention in Anchorage that non-resident Alaska Natives had filed suit to half distribution of that money on grounds their election was not properly conducted.

Should the judge next month decide to order a new election and non-resident Natives vote for their own region, next year's payments from the Alaska Native Fund would be adjusted to compensate for any funds lost in the current payment.

A total of \$8 million was distributed prior to Dec. 18 to the 12 established regional corporations. Advances of \$500,000 apiece went to Ahtna Inc., Aleut Corp., Arctic Slope Regional Corp., Bristol Bay Native Corp., and Koniag Inc. Other advances were: Bering Straits Native Corp., \$700,000; Calista Corp., \$1,494,400; Chugach Natives Inc., \$585,000; Cook Inlet Region Inc., \$750,000; Doyon Limited, \$777,400; NANA Regional Corp., \$545,200, and Sealaska Corp., \$650,000.

The total amount per region, including the advances and interest, includes:

Ahtna Inc., \$1,840,464; Aleut Corp., \$6,042,554; Arctic Slope Regional Corp., \$7,046,609; Bering Straits Native Corp., \$12,560,713; Bristol Bay Native Corp., \$9,989,529; Calista Corp., \$24,567,464; Chugach Natives Inc., \$3,799,374; Cook Inlet Region Inc., \$11,212,254; Doyon Limited, \$16,941,382; Koniag Inc., \$5,856,685; NANA Regional Corp., \$8,898,007; and Sealaska Corp., \$29,467,473.

The 13th regional corporation meanwhile continues to be one of the highly controversial issues surrounding distribution of funds. Among the non-resident Natives attending the convention was Rachael Craig of Seattle, who enrolled to Kotzebue in the NANA Regional Corp.