

## **On Udall and D-2**

# **Story Causes Flap**

**By NANCY HARVEY**

*Editor's Note. As is noted in this story, the Tundra Times stands by the story which we published last week on the AFN position on D-2 legislation. The story was accurate, although the headline may have been somewhat misleading. We stand by our editorial posture also, as is noted in the editorial space of this issue.*

An article published in last week's issue of the Tundra Times reported the Alaska Federation of Natives would propose specific amendments to the D-2 legislation introduced by Representative Morris Udall, at the time hearings on the bill are held in Alaska.

Unfortunately some members of the press interpreted the story to say AFN was endorsing the Udall legislation.

This is not the case.

In an effort to clear up confusion as to AFN's position on the Udall bill, President Byron Mallott made the following remarks to the Associated Press last week in Juneau:

"What the AFN Board did was determine that tactically we would use the Udall bill as the basis for amendments we would propose at the time of hearings here in Alaska.

"We made the decision strictly on the basis the hearings are on the Udall bill and therefore any amendments we would offer would be to that legislation.

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"It was a tactical decision only. It in no way purports to give any kind of support to that particular piece of legislation. The stories that have circulated that the AFN supports the Udall bill are absolutely wrong."

Mallott went on to say the AFN Board agreed to center its efforts on the Udall bill after deciding not to draft legislation of its own or take a position on a proposal being sponsored by Governor Hammond, and Alaska's Republican Congressional Delegation.

Mallott emphasized the decision could be changed if the Carter Administration introduces its own D-2 bill, and that circumstances could lead to a separate AFN bill.

According to Mallott, the AFN is "unalterably" opposed to the heart of the Udall bill which calls for the inclusion of 114 million acres of land into the National Park, National Wildlife Refuge, and Wild and Scenic River Systems.

While the bill calls for the protection of subsistence resources as well as giving local residents a voice in subsistence resources management, it would not allow for economic development of the D-2 lands.

"Those tight classifications would preclude development on Native lands, and we are opposed to it," Mallott said. "We want to protect and maintain development options of Native Corporations by insuring that transportation access across D-2 lands and other uses are established in such a way as our development options are not impacted," he continued.

AFN also hopes to use D-2 legislation to raise a number of objections to other provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

"We want D-2 legislation to deal with implementation of the whole act," said Mallott. "We want to be assured legislatively that land conveyances take place promptly and as a top priority. And we are going to propose that Congress repeal the existing easement provisions and deal with us like any other land owner."