

# Cook Inlet Region Sues Secretary Morton for More Land

ANCHORAGE Cook Inlet Region Inc., angered at a choice of "mountains and glaciers," has filed suit in Anchorage to force Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton to make additional land withdrawals.

The suit, filed in Federal District Court, specifically charges Morton with failure in implementing the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and urges a court order forcing Morton "to withdraw additional lands in sufficient quantity and of appropriate character to comply

with the law."

Larry Oskolkoff, executive director of Cook Inlet Region Inc., said there is dissatisfaction over the lands withdrawn and "a very grave question of the amount of land which should be withdrawn under the act."

"The Natives of Cook Inlet are entitled to have in excess of 5,700,000 additional acres withdrawn for selection," Oskolkoff said. "Even if we were to accept the mountains and glaciers now set aside and even using the most conservative

formula suggested by the Secretary, Cook Inlet Region is entitled to the withdrawal of an additional 1.5 million acres. While there may be room for argument about how much land Cook Inlet Natives are ultimately entitled to, there is no doubt or disagreement that the amount of lands currently withdrawn is grossly inadequate," Oskolkoff said.

"In March of last year the Secretary made the first of his land withdrawals setting aside for Cook Inlet primarily

mountain tops and glaciers. We wrote Secretary Morton in March of 1972, and informed him that the kind of land withdrawn for selection for Cook Inlet Natives was in no respect similar to the lands which we have historically used. The intention of the claims act was to achieve a just settlement of our claims; we cannot be forced to accept uninhabitable and worthless lands as compensation for our claims," he said.

The timetable within the claims act dictates that the re-

gional corporations make land selections by December of 1975; that the villages make their selection by December of 1974. "We must have time to study the lands available in order to make an informed choice as to which lands we want," Oskolkoff said. "These studies take time. We can no longer afford to wait and hope that the secretary will make sufficient lands of similar character available for selection."

## North State . . .

(Continued from page 3)

per cent of all calls receive a dial tone within three seconds and that 95 per cent of all local calls get a ring back tone or a line busy signal representing a true busy condition.

The commission did provide that North State may continue to operate its existing exchange service in the Bristol Bay communities until such time as another utility is certified, or North State may apply for recertification.

Public hearings in Dillingham "revealed gross inadequacies in telephone service received by the public in that area," the PUC said. One witness, commenting on a call to King Salmon from Naknek, said of his telephone, "It's always a surprise if it works." Persons testifying at the hearings said service in general is "very difficult . . . sometimes terrible . . . sometimes fair."

## Letters . . .

(Continued from page 2)

Kwethluk, Prince of Wales, Alakanuk, Bethel (elementary school). Nelson Island, St. Mary's, Nunapitchuk, and Sand Point. All but one of these are to be high schools for places that have no high schools now.

House Concurrent Resolution 63 seeks to steal \$1,500,000 from that bond issue to add a multipurpose room, cafeteria, and shop, and home economics and science rooms to the Delta Junction high school.

Needless to say, Delta Junction already has a high school, the children of Delta Junction do not go away to boarding schools, and the population of Delta Junction is 99 per cent non-native.

Whenever villages ask for high schools they are told that there isn't enough money to provide them. Now that money was finally approved for some village high schools by last fall's bond issue, it seems that House Concurrent Resolution 63 will prevent that money from ever reaching those villages.

House Concurrent Resolution 63 seeks to overturn the will of the voters who approved the bond issue for village schools and will deprive hundreds of children from these villages of local secondary education opportunity.

This resolution must be defeated.

Very truly yours,

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