



# AFN, INC. FIGHTS AND WINS

## Group Rejects Interior Department's Rules, Regulations on Claims

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW  
Staff Writer

The Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. led a fight in Anchorage last week to guarantee that the Claims Settlement would not be diminished and diluted by arbitrary and unfair federal regulations.

AFN, Inc. President Willie Hensley charged that the regulations as proposed by the Department of the Interior "insulted the Alaska Native by making meaningless the settlement we fought so long and so hard for."

Hensley's charges came at the outset of a three-day meeting, March 27-29, between the twelve native regional corporations, Dept. of the Interior officials, and representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management.

The native groups totally rejected the draft submitted by the government on the grounds that there had not been "maximum participation" by Alaska Natives in drawing up the rules.

All twelve regions unanimously supported the AFN resolution which asked that the draft as submitted be rejected and that a new committee, including representation of Alaska natives, meet in Washington to draw up a completely new set of regulations.

"The proposed regulations do not comply either with the spirit or the intent of the Act," commented Tim Wallis of Tanana Chiefs.

"We gave up a great deal," added Tlingit-Haida's John Borbridge. "We are not prepared to give up any more."

"We have our decision-makers here," Borbridge pointed out. "You must have your decision-makers here. We are prepared to make commitments."

He further warned the government officials that they were about to "witness the strongest sense of unity that has prevailed since the passage of the Claims Act."

But, by their own admission, the government officials present were not the "decision-makers."

However, Curt Berkland, Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, said, "I am ready to go back and support you," and pledged to do all in his power to see that a committee from all twelve regions meet in Washington with the "policy-makers" at the highest possible levels.

Native leaders charged that not only were specific recommendations within the regulations "flagrant violations of the Act" but that the entire philosophy underlying the regulations was hostile to native interest and did not reflect the input of ideas suggested when another set of regulations were presented to native leaders last September.

Delegates were persuaded to remain for the three-day planned session in order to help identify major problem areas in the regulations and discuss options to the proposals that might be acceptable.

Major disagreements centered around several key issues:

Village Eligibility Requirements

Compact and Contiguity

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**BATTLE OF THE LAWYERS** — The regulation hearings turn into a highly technical legal battle. Curt Berkland, left, Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, consults with Paul Kirton, attorney for the Division of Public Lands.

Kirton, who is blind, frequently referred to his own copies of the regulations and the Claims Act during the hearings. His set are in Braille.

— Photo by MARGIE BAUMAN

## Case of Two Minor Native Children

### Barrow Children Taken by Trooper to Grand Jury Trial

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW  
Staff Writer

A complaint was filed last week in the Superior Court in Fairbanks protesting the removal of two minor children from the city of Barrow to appear as witnesses against their father before a grand jury in Fairbanks last November.

Plaintiffs in the suit are the

### Harry Carter Suffers Severe Chest Pains

Harry Carter, long-time fighter for the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement, suffered severe chest pains during a long work session for the Land Use Planning Commission in Anchorage March 29.

Former Executive Director of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Mr. Carter is now a member of the Joint State-Federal Commission which oversees the land-use planning throughout the entire state of Alaska.

Carter is presently in intensive care at the Alaska Native Hospital where he was taken following complaints of chest pains while the group was in session.

His many friends throughout the State and among the Native people for whose cause he worked so effectively in Washington, D.C., wish him a speedy recovery.

GET WELL SOON, HARRY!

two minor children and their parents, all residents of Barrow. The defendants are the State of Alaska, the Commissioner of Public Safety, the State Trooper from the Barrow area, and the District Attorney for the Fourth Judicial District.

The children were witnesses to an incident which occurred in the family home. The mother of the family was injured by the father and was admitted to the local hospital. She would not, however, sign a criminal com-

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## 12 Regionals Place Allotments As One of Top Priorities

The twelve native regional corporations have placed native allotments as one of the top priorities when a committee of native representatives meets with top Washington officials later this month.

"This is a matter of a lifetime for these people," said an attorney for one of the regional corporations. "They may or may not have a place to live."

Jimmy Huntington of the Tanana Chiefs Board of Directors said "The number one priority of all people living in the village, in the bush, living on the land, is the native allotment. The people want their allotment."

Huntington referred to the confusing letter sent out by the BLM to approximately 8000 native people who had filed applications for an allotment. "People came to me and said, 'Am I going to get my allotment? I think they want to take it away from me.' They (BLM) sent this letter out to 8000 individuals to confuse

them worse than they ever been confused before."

"I would like to see a letter,"

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## Last Minutes Entreaties--

### Interior Department Fails to Extend Enrollment Deadline

In spite of last minute entreaties, the Department of the Interior failed to extend the enrollment deadline beyond March 30, stating that other time frames within the Act make it imperative that the roll be closed on that date.

Lights burned late in the Anchorage offices of the official Enrollment Office as workers continued to receive applications right up to the midnight deadline.

John Hope, Enrollment Coordinator, said the last application was submitted about 10 PM March 30, although the office re-

mained open until about 12:30.

George Walters, Assistant Coordinator, arrived back from a flying tour to Washington, Oregon, and California, where he acted as a courier to pick up late applications that would not have reached Anchorage in time by mail.

Another batch of last minute applications were delivered by Nellie Courtenay who flew in from Inuvik to deliver forms submitted by Alaska natives living in Canada.

"The day after was a day of rest around here," said Hope. The staff were sorry to hear

of the resignation of Frances Degnan, who had worked intensively on the enrollment project since its beginning. Frances reportedly plans to return to her home in Unalakleet.

Hope could give no exact figures for the amount of applications submitted on the last day.

"In any enrollment," he said, "the last day is traditionally the heaviest. We were no exception."

Late applications have continued to come in and are processed exactly as any other, said Hope.

"If an application doesn't meet one of the requirements it

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