

Congressmen for McCarthy Express Interest in Alaska Native Situations

The Democratic Congressmen representing the McCarthy Steering Committee expressed particular interest in the problems of Alaskan natives at a hearing in Fairbanks last Tuesday.

Congressmen Henry Reuss of Milwaukee, and George Brown

of Los Angeles are visiting key cities throughout the United States to hear what the people want included in the Democratic Party Platform.

The hearing was started by Dick Farris, a teacher for the Community Action Agency. He said that Alaska's greatest resource was her people, but they were held back by inadequate and unsuitable teaching facilities.

Barry Jackson, a Fairbanks attorney representing the village of Minto, gave the congressmen a brief history of the land claims issue, and pointed out that the federal government had been avoiding it since 1884.

As an example of the problems arising from this neglect, he quoted the case of Minto, which the state government had attempted to include in a recreation and hunting area. The

congressmen asked many questions on this and other matters.

Mrs. Hal Beals and Jerry Ivey expressed the natives' dissatisfaction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and suggested that the state government could do a better job.

Several speakers expressed concern over the Vietnam war, and the congressmen agreed that the war was draining much needed money from welfare programs, and that Senator McCarthy wanted to correct the situation.

Prof. Ed Webking, who moderated the hearing, summed up and added that the most serious problem facing the country now was lack of faith in the government, and he expressed the hope that the next President would change this situation.