

T-H Central Council Tackles Disposition of \$6.8 Million

SITKA—Fifty-two delegates from 18 communities ranging geographically from Oakland, Calif. and Seattle, Wash. in the

south, to Anchorage, Alaska in the north, have converged on Sitka, Alaska for the annual convention of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians.

The convention was scheduled to start yesterday, April 24 through April 26.

The Central Council is responding to a congressional directive to develop plans for the disposition of judgment funds of \$6.8 million derived from a decision in the Tlingit and Haida land claims case before the Court of Claims.

The organization, being chair-

ed by its President John Borbridge, Jr., represents the land claims interests of 14,000 Tlingit and Haidas. It was created by an act of Congress and has the recognition of the Secretary of the Interior.

Major emphasis during the convention is being directed toward the restructuring of the Central Council by the revision of the rules of election governing the election of delegates.

The convention is also working on the formulation of a constitution for each Tlingit and

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Disposition . . .

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Haida local; the bonding of local treasurers is also being worked on to be completed prior to the disbursement of funds allotted for administrative and program planning purposes.

"The foregoing measure," John Borbridge stated, "will enable the individual Tlingit and Haida organizations to more effectively express their needs and present their ideas for inclusion in the overall plan that is to be submitted to Congress on behalf of the Central Council."

"The progress of the statewide land claims," Borbridge added, "with emphasis on efforts by the Alaska Federation of Natives to retain Justice Arthur J. Goldberg as general counsel

will receive attention."

Another important subject that is being discussed is the census of the Tlingit and Haida Indians and other native people of Alaska.

The promotion of the Tundra Times at the conference is also being mentioned.

The election of officers will be proceeding today, April 25.

The present officers are: John Borbridge, Jr., Anchorage, president; Roger Lang, Sitka, first vice president; Frank See, Hoonah, vice president; Kenneth Leask, Seattle, vice president; James Thomas, Yakutat, secretary; and Harvey Marvin, Sitka, treasurer.