

Writer opposes 1991 amendments to Native claims act

Dear Senator Ted Stevens:

A Senate committee has scheduled hearings to be held on a bill which would amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, HR 278, a bill from the Alaska Federation of Natives and Sen. Frank Murkowski's substitute bill will be among those considered by the committee.

I am opposed to any amendments to ANCSA which don't reflect the best interests of the Alaska Native peoples. These proposals, I understand, contain no provisions which would:

- Adequately protect the lands from taxation.

- Protect the lands from condemnation by the State of Alaska.

- Allow the secretary of the Interior to hold tribally owned lands in trust.

- Be neutral with regard to the self-governing powers of the Alaska Native tribes.

If any of the above proposed amendments become law without these needed and protective provisions, it will effectively destroy the Alaska Natives' objective of keeping and holding their lands as well as Congress' intent of viably settling the claims of the Alaska Native peoples.

The corporate concept used in set-

tling the claims of the Klamath, Modoc and Menominee Indian tribes has been a dismal failure. There is little or no reason to believe that the corporate concept will work or succeed for the Alaska Native tribes because of the lack of natural resources, lack of adequate education and the scarcity of population statewide.

This approach will only cause further exploitation of Alaska's Aleut, Indian and Eskimo peoples, and it will add another chapter to the long and shameful history of the U.S. government's dealings with Native Americans.

Please consider the American Indian Policy Review Commission Report of 1975, which recommended that the U.S. government should adopt policies which would protect and strengthen tribal governments.

I urge you to correct the injustices in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act before we are dispossessed of our lands and our cultural heritage. You should seek and listen to the Native people from the villages for advice on these important matters.

Sincerely yours,
Frank R. Peterson Sr.
Kalispell, Mt.

• Alaska Native Brotherhood to celebrate 75th anniversary

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the Message, the Forum."

ANB Grand President Richard Stitt is encouraging delegates to introduce themselves by their Tlingit or Native name and identify their Clan House before they speak at the convention.

Each day there will be time allotted for historical segments to be presented by various people. Details of this still need to be worked out. Generally, segments will cover pre-ANB, the impact of ANB and local camps.

GRAND CAMP

ALASKA NATIVE BROTHERHOOD
INC.

ORGANIZED 1912

Each camp is encouraged to provide a listing of their charter members and history of their camp.

The Grand Camp is putting together a booklet entitled, "A History of the Founders and Past Grand Presidents."

The Sitka ANB has a special 18K

gold bracelet made by Louis O. Minard, a master Tlingit metal carver. The center design is based on the design used for the 50th anniversary ANB medallion. The bracelet will have engraved on the inside: 75th Anniversary, 1912-1917, Sitka, Alaska,

November 9-14, 1987.

There will be other items, such as cups, pens or pencils. In fact, cups are available now.

A lot more planning will be done, the process and celebration have begun.

For more information you can contact ANB Grand President Richard Stitt, 9462 Brady Place, Juneau 99801; or Sitka ANB, P.O. Box 72, Sitka 99835.

Sincerely,
Frank Williams Jr.
Sitka