

# Village Presidents support Wien pilots

The Association of Village Council Presidents, meeting in convention November 9 in Bethel, offered strong support to striking pilots of Wien Air Alaska.

The strike, which has been going since May, is having a serious impact on residents of the Lower Yukon-Kuskokwim River area. Wien provides the only transportation, besides air charter, to the region in winter months; some barge service is available during the brief summer months, but only for transportation of cargo.

In a lengthy, strongly worded resolution, the 56 villages of the AVCP Region urged Wien to return to the negotiating table "to bargain in good faith with the Wien pilot group until the strike is satisfactorily resolved."

Although the AVCP delegation introduced its resolution to the Alaska Federation of Natives convention in Anchorage during the same week, the final AFN language was considerably

milder.

The AVCP resolution reads in part:

Whereas the AVCP Region is heavily and almost exclusively dependent upon Wien Air Alaska for its transportation needs and contact with the rest of Alaska **and the United States, and**

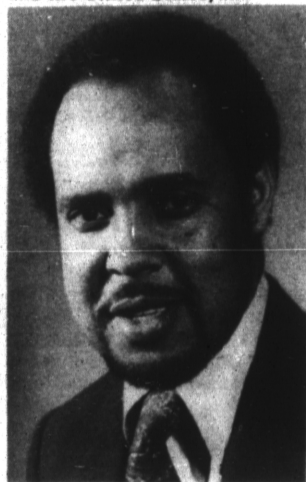
Whereas the AVCP Region has suffered from reduction in service, lesser airplane payloads and reliability of air service within the region since Wien Air Alaska entered into the strike situation on May 7, 1977, and

Whereas, questions of safety

and acceptable performance standards remain unresolved during the strike situation and have shaken the confidence of the people of the AVCP region and Wien Air Alaska air service, and

Whereas, the people of the AVCP Region have known,

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# Wien pilots . . .

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flown with, and enjoyed confidence in the Wien-ALPA pilots, many of whom are Alaska Natives of our region, and born-Alaskans and have been known to the people of the AVCP Region for 30 years or more, and

Whereas, the outcome of the Wien pilots strike will have a direct impact on the quality of safe and reliable service for decades to come in this region,

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the AVCP Region and its 56 member villages in Western Alaska supports the position of the Wien pilot group in its strike against Wien Air Alaska, Inc., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AVCP Region, members, directors, and staff declares that AVCP will travel on alternate air transportation where available until the Wien pilots strike is favorably resolved."