

"We can't eat money!"

Predicting more restrictive subsistence limitations would be placed on Alaska lands, Mayor Jack Williams of Mekoryuk warned Convention delegates profit corporations are all right, "but we can't eat money."

Williams briefed conferees on the topic of Native Culture and Lifestyle, one of three major topics addressed in small group discussions during the AFN annual meeting.

Addressing the convention theme, "Does One Way of Life Have to Die so Another Can Live," Williams asked, "Will we, as Alaska Natives, permit the white man's way of life to kill our Native Culture and Lifestyle?"

"In our culture we respect land because it gives us food to eat and clothes. Still respect land today and don't buy land for our own because land belong to everyone," Williams said.

"Land Claims Act change everything. Now Federal government tell Native people 'you will own 40 million acres, and give State 103 million acres' and they keep 300 million acres."

"This means my land, Alaska land, no longer available to support our culture," Williams concluded.

Williams predicted that if his profit corporation, Calista, had to pay to replace the protein value which foreseeably could be lost if subsistence hunting and fishing ceased, it would cost an estimated \$35 million yearly. He went on to predict that Calista would go broke in one year if they had to pay for the loss of subsistence activities.

"My people, Native lifestyle and culture cost more than what federal government, state government and profit corporations can buy. All put together, it is not for sale!"