

LAND BILL: HOPES ARE HIGH

President Backing Claims

President Richard Nixon noted last week that an early and just settlement of the Native land claims issue has his "complete personal backing."

In a letter to Alaska's Sen. Ted Stevens on Sept. 22, he added, "Certainly it is of high priority to this Administration."

Noting that a September letter of Sen. Stevens had come to his attention, the President said, "It has long been my belief that the Federal Government should support a strong and equitable settlement for these ancestral claims and the Alaska Native Claims legislation proposed by the Administration is an indication of my personal commitment to a just settlement."

"I believe it is vital to the interests of the State of Alaska, to Alaska Natives, and to the Nation that proper action be taken by the Congress in order to resolve this issue."

A land claims bill recently passed by the Senate would give Alaska's Natives \$500 million in cash, \$500 million in royalty payments, and about 10 million acres of land.

The House subcommittee on Indian Affairs concluded executive sessions on the land claims issue Tuesday, Sept. 22, with no reported resolution on the matter. It appears unlikely that a bill will be forthcoming this year unless Congress, scheduled to adjourn Oct. 15, returns after the November elections.

NCIO Meeting Set for Oct. 2 In Fairbanks

A regional meeting sponsored by the National Council on Indian Opportunity (NCIO) will be held in Fairbanks, Oct. 2, at the Chamber of Commerce.

The one-day session will open at 9 a.m. and will be chaired by Mrs. Laura Bergt of Fairbanks, a member of the National Council.

The hearing is the last of eight that have been held across the nation to inform Indians of the contents of President Nixon's historic message to the Congress on Indian Affairs in July.

Also, at the meeting legislation will give Indians much larger control over their own affairs and the expenditure of federal funds.

Participants in the Fairbanks session will include delegates from the Alaska Federation of Natives, and any other natives or non-natives are welcome to attend.

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TOP HEW OFFICIAL IN ALASKA—Bernard E. Kelly, newly-appointed director of Region X of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare toured Alaska last week. The other states in Region X are Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

HEW Installs Regional Office in Seattle

There is probably no family in Alaska untouched by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and, therefore, probably few people who would oppose efforts by the department to give people more for their money.

These efforts were spoken of last week by a newly appointed official of the Department of HEW as he stopped in Fairbanks while touring the State.

Bernard E. Kelly, regional director for the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, noted last week that efforts are now underway to decentralize the numerous HEW programs and "give people more for their money."

One of 10 regional directors in the nation, Kelly explained that he and about 17 staff members of the regional office were

visiting Alaska to meet the people and gain an overall impression of the State.

The impression received, he (Continued on page 6)

Native Leadership Optimistic Bill Could Come Out This Year

By SUSAN TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Alaska native leaders returned from Washington this week still harboring hopes that land claims legislation will be forthcoming during this session of Congress.

The basis for such hope seems to rest upon indications given them by Chairman of the House Interior Committee Wayne Aspinall that he will some way or another get a bill out of his committee.

"We have a great trust in Aspinall," Eben Hopson, executive director of the Alaska Federation of Natives, said Monday, "and are confident that he will really try to come up with a bill."

Hopson and other native leaders talked with the chairman in Washington following adjournment of the committee until after the November elections.

President of the AFN, Emil Notti, could not be reached Monday but in a press release, the native leader said he was "extremely hopeful" that a just settlement can be enacted before the end of the year.

Similarly, John Borbridge, Jr., first vice-president of the organization, said from his Juneau office, "We are going all out on the proposition that there will be a bill."

He admitted that chances for passage were slim but emphasized that the natives are pushing as hard as they can to make something happen.

"Certainly, we are optimistic," he added, "or we would never have been here in the first place."

No official reports on a land claims bill came out of the Interior Committee before adjournment last week nor out of its subcommittee on Indian Affairs which held closed sessions on the

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\$200,000 Grant For Vocational Rehabilitation

Sen. Mike Gravel's Washington office reports that the Rehabilitation Services Administration has approved a \$200,000 grant to the Alaska Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the expansion of vocational rehabilitation services to rural Alaskans.

Barrow Eskimo Dance Band to Perform at Paper's Banquet

The festivities will begin with a no-host cocktail hour at 7:00 p.m. and the annual feast will begin at 8:00 p.m. The dress for the occasion will be semi-formal.

Jack Anderson, the author of the nationally syndicated column, Washington "Merry Go Round" will be the principal speaker at the newspaper's annual banquet. Anderson will

speak on this year's anniversary theme: "Communications: Bridges to Understanding."

The barrow three-man Eskimo instrumental dance band, the Polar Bears, will be performing for the dance that will take place after the banquet.

The three young men are: George Amouak, Sam Ahgeak, and Gilbert Long. The trio feature electric guitars. They are said to be "groovy" performers blaring out really danceable music.

Fairbanks television station KFAR will film the Tundra Times banquet at Alaskaland on the evening of October 3.

Many dignitaries are already on the committed list to attend the anniversary dinner. Secretary Robert Ward will represent Gov. Keith Miller. Former Governor William Egan will attend as will Mrs. Vide Bartlett, widow of the late Sen. E.L. "Bob" Bartlett.

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Mondale Hits Myths About Indians

Sen. Walter Mondale of Minnesota recently told the Senate that he feared far too few schools were taking steps to correct damaging and false myths about Indians.

A member of the Senate Indian Education Subcommittee, the Democratic Senator noted that one of the principal findings of the subcommittee was that the existence of myths and stereotypes about Indians was a significant factor in the public's refusal to accept the Indian as a fellow human being.

Mondale was in Alaska in April of 1969 with the committee, chaired by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

As found in the Congressional Record of July 23, the Senator added that the subcommittee recommended that "school curriculums must change to reflect the true history and culture of Indians, rather than contribute to the propagation of damaging, derogatory—and untrue—stereotypes."

As carried in the Aug. 3 American Indian Law newsletter of

the University of New Mexico School of Law, the record includes the senator's explanation of action taken by the University of Minnesota to tackle the problem.

The University is preparing an Indian education college credit course to assist teachers in the preparation of curriculum units.

And curriculum units will be sent to all school districts in the state.

Their action was prompted by a survey conducted among

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