

Epis. Church Backs Claims

The National Committee on Indian Work of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church has passed a resolution supporting Alaskan Natives in their suit in the U. S. Congress for an equitable settlement of their land claims.

By unanimous vote in April the committee reaffirmed its support of the Natives seeking assurance of an adequate land base, compensation for the lands they are ceding to the United States for development by the government and by thousands of non-Indians who have moved and continue to move in increasing numbers to Alaska.

The NCIW also backs recognition of their right of self-determination in the future ordering of their lives.

"NCIW feels that this represents the last opportunity the government of the United States has to demonstrate its ability to deal honestly and justly with the original owners of this vast continent and thus, at last, after two centuries of less than honest dealings with other Indian tribes, to prove it is the Christian nation it claims to be" the committee explained.

Markup...

(Continued from page 1)

The committee has yet to decide which of the bills proposed will be used as the basic structure for its recommendations to the full interior committee.

House Interior Committee chairman, Wayne Aspinall, democrat from Colorado has hinted that new land claims legislation reportedly drafted by subcommittee consultant, Lewis A. Siglar may be presented before the subcommittee this week.

Siglar told the Tundra Times that he has devoted a considerable amount of time to writing a draft proposal which might be of interest to the committee.

Low Key...

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"It is a shame the TAed land was tentatively approved before the claims were settled," he conceded, "that is putting the cart before the horse. I think you have got a valid argument." But he added he felt he was stepping on thin ice in dealing with the state obligations to the natives.

On legislation by Senator Frank Harris limiting the hunting of sea animals, "I would oppose it," and on recent stoppage of advance funding to villages contracting with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, "obviously this policy can not work if in fact there is not enough money to do the job."

The AFN meeting was itself devoted largely to discussion to a state wide housing program on which the federal government has set a 1972 deadline for construction of 1,200 homes.

In a resolution they voted approval of implementation of the contract with Alaska State Housing authorities but the actual agreement was not signed.

Appointed to the housing committee were Willie Hensley, Richard Stitts, George Miller, Tim Wallace, Charlie Edwardson, and George Charles.

They voted against the Sea Mammal Protection Act because they felt the bill needed more study.

"I feel it should be set aside for hearings in the Arctic and the Pribilofs so the bill can be written to do the job it is intended to do," Don Wright, President of AFN explained.

First Tlingit Language Workshop at SJC June 3-7

The first Tlingit language workshop was held on June 3rd to June 7th at Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka under the direction of Dr. Michael E. Krauss, Professor of Linguistics at the University of Alaska. He was assisted by Elaine Ramos, Assistant Dean of Student at Sheldon Jackson.

Tlingit teachers that attended were: A. P. Johnson, Instructor of the Tlingit language and culture at Sheldon Jackson College; Fanny Brown, Instructor of Tlingit language and culture, Klawock Public School; Arthur Demmert, Tlingit language instructor at Alaska Methodist University, Anchorage, Alaska; Katherine Mills, Tlingit language teacher, Hoonah Public School; George Lewis, Salvation Army office from Haines, Richard Dauenhauer, professor of Linguistics and Comparative Literature at Alaska Methodist University; Mrs. Esther Billman, Professor of Anthropology at Sheldon Jackson College.

This group discussed the

issues surrounding the teaching of Tlingit. Dr. Krauss gave a brief summary of attempts to write the Tlingit language, beginning with the works of Russia's Venimenoff, and later, in 1908, by John R. Swanton, in 1917, by Franz Boas, in 1939 by H. Vilton, and in the last few years by the Wycliffe Bible translators, Miss C. Naish and Miss G. Story, who developed the presently used alphabet.

The participants shared and evaluated materials presently used, the methods employed for teaching the language, and of ways to increase the interest and expansion in teaching the language. Dr. Krauss emphasized the importance of Tlingit people still speaking the language to use it as a first language at home.

The group agreed that the Tlingits have a psychological need for their language and culture.

The group felt they would loose if they didn't organize. As they needed to organize to



LANGUAGE WORKSHOP—Those who attended the Tlingit language workshop at SJC: A.P. Johnson, Dr. Michael Krauss, Elaine Ramos, Fanny Brown, Arthur Demmert, Katherine Mills, George Lewis, Richard Dauenhauer and Esther Billman.

save their land so do they need to organize to save their language. Though their land will fill their stomachs, they need their culture to fill their souls. They felt that this time and place is unique, they have both worlds at their fingertips.

On the last day, the group elected officers. They were Arthur Demmert from Kake as President, Nora Florendo from Juneau and George Lewis as first and second vice president and Elaine Ramos from Sitka as Corresponding Secretary.

After drilling at Kenai, 1,000 moose joined us.



We worried and wondered whether our drilling at the Kenai Moose Preserve would disturb the moose.

The moose said no. Twelve years ago, when we came, there were 4,300 moose. Soon, there were 1,000 more.

We're here to drill for the oil under the ground. But we're determined to preserve whatever's on top.