

Sam Deloria — Indian law prof has ANCSA view

By Geoff Kennedy

Sam De Loria has reservations about the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act.

The Director of the University of New Mexico Indian Law Center Scholarship Program calls the act "horrendously complicated" and says it will likely become a "people's nightmare and a lawyer's paradise."

De Loria insisted he is not an expert on the act, but he said

the relationship between village corporations and regional corporations is clearly "undefined and has an unlimited potential for complexity, legal hassle and abuse."

De Loria, who attended the conference on cross-cultural education at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in October, admitted Native people need some structure to manage their resources.

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communications contract under renegotiation

The Tundra Times has learned that the contract which was negotiated between the Governor's Office of Telecommunications and RCA AlasCom to provide for a television demonstration project in 23 villages and 5 cities in Alaska is currently being renegotiated.

The original contract, negotiated in October, came under strong protests from members of the legislature recently. When the legislative council met on November 8 to review the contract, a motion was passed which requested the Governor's office to renegotiate the contract.

Dissatisfaction with the original contract stems from a provision in the contract which would have allowed toll telephone service to pre-empt television transmissions to villages and cities included in the

project.

Dr. Robert Merritt, telecommunications consultant to the legislature is involved in the new negotiations. It is expected that a new contract may be signed this week, possibly today, which could mean that cities and villages in the project may receive live television beginning January 15, 1977.

problems. Yet, Paddock said "the non-profits had no say in the voting."

Selected as spokesman for the committee, Paddock said his group had looked at three alternatives to the problem:

Ten regions attend AFN board meeting in Anchorage

Ten of the twelve regional corporations made it to the Alaska Federation of Natives Board of Directors meeting in Anchorage last Thursday and Friday. Only Calista Corp., which was having its own board meeting, and the Aleut Corp., were not in attendance. The Aleut Corp. is reportedly involved in a dispute with the board over the payment of dues.

A large portion of the meeting was taken up by executive session. The press is excluded, and no official records are kept, of executive sessions. Behind closed doors, the board discussed the Aleut situation, the AFN presidency, allocation of funds to develop a technical position on oil and gas, and the 90-day land selection preference recently granted the State of Alaska.

The board seated two new members. They are Jerome Trigg of Bering Straits Native Corp., replacing Tom Drake, and Emil Notti, of Doyon, Ltd., replacing Sam Kito.

The board also elected new officers. They are: Emil Notti, chairman; Richard Janson,

Chugach Natives, Inc. vice-chairman; Roy Huhndorf, Cook Inlet Region, Inc., secretary; and Jack Wick, Koniag, Inc., treasurer.

The board also discussed the development of a statewide Native position on the classification of federal lands, and heard a report by John Borbridge, commissioner of the American Indian Policy Review Commission and a member of the board from Sealaska Corp. The commission is drafting a report which may be the basis of new federal legislation affecting Native people.

Another item discussed by the board was the apparent failure of the State of Alaska to make payments into the Alaska Native Fund. Borbridge said Sealaska had discovered "several deficiencies in the payments." What made matters worse, he added, "was the fact that we were not advised."

The board directed President Sam Kito to seek an appropriation from the State of Alaska for the Alaska Native Fund by asking the governor to include the payment for this year and last year in the next budget.

Mallott succeeds Kito

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However, he went on to

say that his first job as AFN president, would be to review the federation's structure and

objectives.

"I think there is a need to constantly evaluate the structure of AFN," he said. Such a review, he added, would be a "very, very useful exercise."

Mallott said he would set up a "working committee to review AFN's structure and its goals and objectives."

"The problem is, what is AFN's purpose, and how to carry it out. It's not to say that there's anything wrong with AFN, I think AFN is strong and viable. It's a matter of not taking anything for granted, especially as it relates to Native people, that's my attitude," he said.

Mallott said AFN must be aware of the changing priorities of the people it claims to represent.

Mallott praised Sam Kito for his effort's as AFN president in the past year. He said, "I think Sam Kito has done a tremendous job at AFN."

Mallott suggested that often conflicts arise within the organization because events in the social, political and economic worlds move so quickly. He said he views his job as one of identifying those issues which will unify Native people in Alaska.

Mallott, 33, was born and raised in Yakutat on the eastern end of Prince William Sound. He graduated from Sheldon Jackson High School and earned a degree in political science from Western Washington State College.

In 1969, Mallott served as a special assistant to Senator Mike Gravel on land claims issues. The following year he became executive director of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program.

Mallott was appointed by Governor Egan to be the first Commissioner of Community and Regional Affairs in 1971. Mallott was not only the first native to serve in the state cabinet but also the youngest person to hold such a post.

Mallott was recently selected as Chairman of the Sealaska Corp., and is also Chairman of Yak-Tat Kwaan, the village corporation for Yakutat.

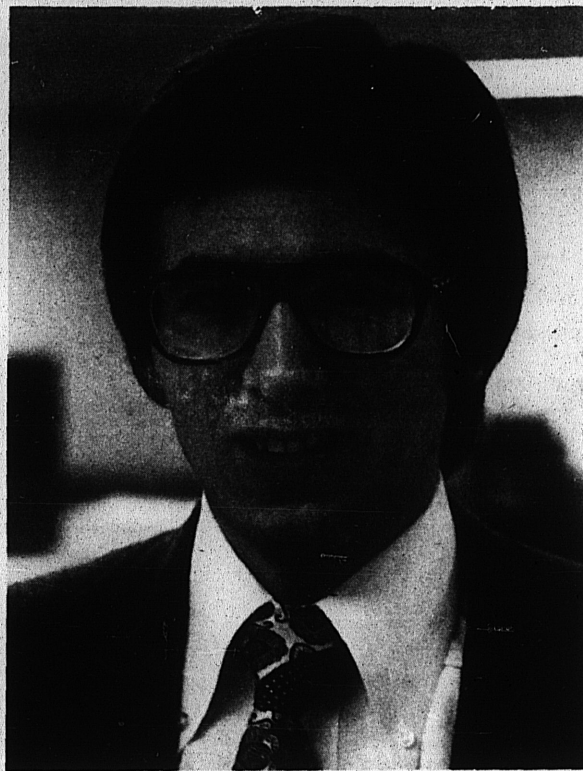
Mallott also operates a charter boat service in Yakutat and, in partnership with Roger Lang, owns a statewide consulting service. Mallott said he will place his share of the consulting firm in trust during his tenure as AFN president, but would continue to operate the charter boat. "I need to do that to maintain my sense of perspective on the world," he said.

The AFN Board agreed to allow Mallott leave without pay, at his discretion, to tend to the charter business. Mallott said he didn't expect to be absent more than several days at a time.

Mallott will receive \$45,000 a year as AFN president.

Recognizing that his new job is "a hell of a challenge" and an "awesome amount of responsibility," Mallott was optimistic. "I just don't feel that there's anything insurmountable," he said.

Mallott's wife, Toni, is a Doyon stockholder. They have three children, Byron Jay, Meredith and Anthony.



Byron Mallott

AFN Reorganization

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First, he said, was the option of breaking away from AFN completely, which the committee "rejected at the outset." A second possibility was for the Human Resources Committee to sit in on AFN board meetings, but not as a voting member.

The third option was to expand the AFN Board to 24 members. The full board would meet quarterly, while profit and non-profit corporations would meet among themselves as needed.

Paddock said the committee looked closely at the third option. "We're proposing that as a way to bring AFN together," he said.

Outgoing AFN President Sam Kito reacted cautiously to the proposal. "There is some merit to it," he commented, but warned that AFN should not return to the time when the leadership was selected by popular vote.

Clifford A. Black, executive director of the North Pacific Rim Native Corp., said Alaska Natives need one voice to confront the issues affecting them.

"It's the one-voice philosophy that we feel is the key thing," he said, "All we're talking about is the strengthening of our voice in Alaska."

Jeanmarie Larson, president/executive director of Cook Inlet Native Association commented that communication between the AFN Board and the Human Resources Committee had been "virtually nil" and that the "voices have not been equal" between the profits and non-profits.

Roy Huhndorf, president of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., expressed support for the idea of including the non-profit corpora-

tions on the AFN Board "as soon as possible." Huhndorf also suggested allowing health corporations, villages and individual Native people to select board representatives.

Emil Notti, Doyon Ltd. who chaired the meeting along with Human Resources Committee head Bobby Schaeffer of Mauneluk, Inc., said the AFN Board recognized the problems of the present board structure and were willing to consider a change. "It's just a matter of how to do it," he said.

Huhndorf, Jack Wick, president of Koniag and new AFN president Byron Mallott cautioned that great care should be taken in changing the structure. Reorganization is "admirable" Wick said, "if it's constructed properly."

Mallott said questions about reorganization "could be devious unless we're very careful." He added that reorganization would have the highest priority when he comes on board February 1.

After about half an hour of discussions, the AFN Board and Human Resources Committee decided to appoint three representatives and one alternate each to study more closely the different ideas for remaking the AFN Board. Representatives for the Human Resources Committee are Bobby Schaeffer, Mauneluk, Inc., Ray Paddock, Yupikta Bista, Inc., (Bethel) Clifford A. Black, North Pacific Rim Native Corp. Frank Peterson, Kodiak Area Native Association, was selected as alternate.

The AFN Board selected Roger Lang, Roy Huhndorf, Cook Inlet Region, Inc., and Jack Wick, Koniag, Inc., Emil Notti, Doyon Ltd., was chosen as alternate.