

Reject State Stand: Josephson

State Senator Joe Josephson has urged the Legislative Council to reject the argument that State participation in a Native land claims settlement would be unconstitutional, and has expressed the hope that the present legislature would be the first in history to participate fairly in a settlement.

Josephson said that the advice given the Legislative Council by Juneau attorney Avrum Gross that state participation would be unconstitutional did not, in his judgment, take into account the federal court decision in the Nenana case.

"This decision," he said, "clearly indicated that the State's

selected land is exposed to potential claims by Alaska Natives."

He said every sovereign state must have the inherent power to dispose of existing or potential adverse claims.

Josephson, who is an attorney, said, "It is ironic that the Attorney General of the State, who argues against state participation on the ground of state sovereignty, would fail to see the constitutional issues in this context."

He said he feared that the State's position would lead to endless litigation.

Josephson is a Democratic candidate for the United States Senate seat now held by Senator Ted Stevens.

AFN Terminates PR..

(Continued from page 1)

land claims position.

He and other AFN leaders recently completed a whirlwind tour of Washington state where they spoke with numerous church groups, civic clubs, and representatives of the news media.

The energetic PR director disagreed with the elimination of the office at this time.

He termed the upcoming months as crucial ones for the AFN in terms of pursuing the native land claims effort.

"I believe," he said, "the most important office to the AFN in its stake of over a billion dollars is being eliminated. I am sorry that better vision and pro- goals are not a reality in our current efforts."

The Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is now drafting a land claims proposal and chairman of the committee Sen. Henry Jackson has said that he would like to have the bill out of the committee and passed by the Senate by the first of April.

To date, the committee meetings have been secret and thus the shaping of the committee bill uncertain, but the fight for AFN position does not appear to be an easy one. The Secretary of the Interior has come out against the 2 per cent overriding royalty and against 40 million acres of land for the natives as the AFN has requested. Rather it has called for \$500 million cash settlement plus 15 million acres. The AFN has requested 40 million acres.

When asked how he thought the elimination of the PR office might affect the AFN effort in Washington, D.C., Thomas said that he did not know.

"It all depends on how well our leaders hang in there and do what they can."

The AFN, he added, needs three or four people there full-time to talk with the aids of Congressmen on committees that are or will be concerned with the land claims legislation.

And, he added, the AFN needs a 70 to 90 per cent effort on the national, rather than the state level in order to reach Congressmen from other states.

Once a bill is adopted by the Senate Interior Committee and passed by the Senate, it must then go through similar channels in the House and finally the Senate-House compromise committee.

Willie Hensley, executive director of the AFN before going to Juneau to serve as a State representative from Kotzebue, said that he did not think the elimination of the public relations office would have a major effect on the land claims effort in Washington.

"I think the elimination is merely a matter of priorities. We've never really been on a sound financial footing," he said, "and we have other programs that cannot be jeopardized because we have contracted for them and need to be fiscally responsible."

The AFN, he continued, has always been a shoestring operation and created the public relations office on a temporary basis in an effort to get information on the land claims to the public. Set up about 5 months ago,

the office was funded for the first three months by the Association on American Indian Affairs through a \$30,000 grant.

Thomas said that the office has spent a total of from \$40,000 to \$45,000 during the five months with the additional money coming from church grants.

Contrary to other AFN leaders, he seemed to feel that money was available to continue the full time public relations effort.

Several churches in Washington state, he said, have expressed an interest, and there is the possibility that they will give the AFN some funds.

It also appears, he said, that the AFN could obtain a \$250,000 loan guaranteed by the Presbyterian church but the AFN board has not acted on the matter.

The organization recently received \$2,875 of a \$11,500 grant from the Inter-religious Foundation for Community Organization. Both the Presbyterian and Episcopal church each recently granted the AFN \$10,000. According to Thomas, the Episcopal grant has been used to pay bills and according to Ketzler, when the Presbyterian grant comes in, it will be used for the same purpose.

Ketzler did not seem as optimistic as Thomas about the AFN's chances of securing more funds or loans.

The deputy executive director said that in Washington and New York he went to many of the same places that Thomas did and that, "of course, they all say submit something and maybe you'll get some money."

He added that he had sent out grant applications for about \$50,000.

All of the AFN leaders asserted that the action was a matter of finances and was no personal reflection upon Thomas.

Emil Notti, president of the AFN, stressed that Thomas, a Tlingit Indian, has done a tremendous job.

Similarly, the vice president John Borbridge said that the public relations director had performed very ably and was to be complimented for taking the position knowing that it was a temporary one.

In the past there have been indications that some of the AFN leaders thought that the PR office was running too independently of the AFN leadership.

According to Hensley, the office has been a sore spot in the organization.

"To me," he said, "the public relations effort can't be totally independent effort. What that office does, the director or president has to answer for."

He added that he thought at times the AFN leaders did not know what the public relations office was doing or how it was spending money.

The main problem, according to Thomas, was not one of lack of finances, but that "my priority has been land claims and I have neglected satisfying certain egos by not reporting activities of some leaders in the press."

Thomas said that he has had several good job offers in Anchorage but that he has made no decision. His dedication, he said, lies with the native cause.

Northern Shrimp on The Move Southward

On the Atlantic Coast, the northern shrimp fishery appears to be edging southward.

According to reports from the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (BCF), the northern shrimp was formerly harvested almost exclusively within 50 miles of Portland, Maine, and marketed as "Maine shrimp."

Under the auspices of BCF, frozen Maine shrimp have been displayed at international food fairs. Since the product was first introduced in London in 1966, it has been received with enthusiasm in France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the Netherlands, Charles H. Meacham, Commissioner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, noted.

Approximately 50 per cent of Maine's shrimp production for the 1968-69 season was exported to Western Europe, most of it to Sweden.

Biologists do not know where these deep-water shrimp mature, but they move in toward shore to spawn, and are caught during the shoreward migrations. Maine's commercial fishermen have generally harvested the small pink shrimp as a winter crop, from September or October into April or May.

However, exploratory fishing work by BCF has demonstrated that the shrimp are within reach of vessels from other coastal states—and that the traditional shrimping season can be extended to include the summer months, Mr. Meacham said.

As a result, vessels from Massachusetts and New Hampshire moved into the fishery last year. Maine fishermen held the lead for the 1969 catch with about 24.5 million pounds valued at approximately \$3 million; Massachusetts landed a healthy 4.5 million pounds worth about \$500,000, and New Hampshire trailed with about 100,000 pounds valued at roughly \$12,000.

Meanwhile, a new processing plant, capable of handling up to 200,000 pounds of shrimp a day, is under construction on Gloucester's State Fish Pier.

T-H Gets \$80,000...

(Continued from page 1)

"Hopefully," he added, "these efforts will help to convince the Congress of the United States that Alaska natives are aware that a desire for maximum self-determination in the land claims settlement must be accompanied by careful planning."

The \$7 million was awarded to the Indians in January of 1968 but has not yet been released. A bill is now in the House of Representatives to provide for the distribution of the money. It was

For Wainwright Vets— Veteran Housing Loans Announced

JUNEAU—Governor Keith H. Miller announced that six loans totaling \$45,000 had been approved by the Division of Veterans' Affairs for veterans living in Wainwright, Alaska.

Miller said the Division of Veterans' Affairs had embarked on a new program of aiding native veterans in the remote villages to obtain adequate housing.

In this program the loan officer assists the veteran in designing his future home and arranges for all the materials to be pur-

chased and shipped to the village.

The veteran will then construct his home under the supervision of a qualified construction foreman provided by the Division.

"The advantages of this program to the veteran in a remote area are numerous," Miller said. "The veteran receives a home that is suited to his family's needs, materials are purchased in quantity amounts, at his disposal are all the ideas and outlets that are normally available to urban veterans, and he is not faced with the problem of dealing in a world that is completely foreign to him."

"The program is designed to aid our Alaskan native veterans," the Governor said. "It is a program that will grow and it is not dependent on grants or appropriations for its growth."

TANACROSS...

(Continued from page 1)

the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the State Lands Division to find out why the State has taken over land that the Indians claim to be theirs by virtue of their use and occupancy of it.

However, the Tanacross villagers felt the meeting left many questions unanswered.

Gravel stated in a letter to Chief Andrew Isaac, in which he advised the chief of the answer from the BLM, that he hoped the Bureau would be able to resolve the village's problem shortly and would furnish responsive answers to the chief's questions.

UYDC Requests

(Continued from page 1)

the Interior, the resolution concluded.

In response to the request, William Jacobs, director of Alaska Legal Services, noted that the agency is interested in having cooperation and guidance from the Upper Yukon organization.

However, he continued, it would be difficult to arrange for them to have a representative on the board without slighting 10 or 11 other such corporations throughout the state that are not represented.

And, he said, if each of the 12 corporations were given a representative, the number of board members would climb from 3 to 25, and the mere cost of having board meetings would be prohibitive.

The 13-member board, Jacobs explained, consists of six lawyers—two each from Anchorage and Fairbanks and one each from Ketchikan and Juneau—and six non-lawyers—one each from Ketchikan, Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Southwest Alaska, and Northwest-Arctic Alaska. In addition, the president of the Alaska State Bar Association sits on the board as an ex-officio member.

The lawyers are chosen by other lawyers in their area. The non-lawyers are to be chosen in a democratic manner either by community action agencies or other associations in the area concerned with poverty.

Of the six areas represented on the board by non-lawyers, Fairbanks is closest to the Upper Yukon region. Its representative is selected by the Fairbanks Native Association, Jacobs said.

The Alaska Legal Services Corporation, under contract by the Office of Economic Opportunity, is responsible for providing civil legal services for people unable to afford a lawyer because of poverty.