



CLAIMS REACH CRITICAL POINT



HOW IT LOOKS IN WASHINGTON—AFN Board members receive a rundown of how native land claims legislation is faring in Congress at this point in the session. Attorney Kenneth Bass

(right) explains possibilities as AFN vice president Phillip Guy (left) and president Don Wright listen intently.

Photo by MADELYN SHULMAN

AFN Counsel Concerned Over Possible 'No Land' Opposition in Senate

By MADELYN SHULMAN
Staff Writer

ANCHORAGE—Native land claims are at a critical point in the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee following Thursday's hearings, according to AFN attorney Ken Bass, a member of Ramsey Clark's law firm.

"Last year there was no organized 'no land' position in the Senate Interior Committee," explained Bass speaking to AFN Board members at their February 20 meeting.

This year, he fears, a conservative opposition to including a large amount of fee title land in a claims settlement may develop around Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton.

At Senate Interior Committee hearings on Thursday (February 18) Secretary Morton testified that S-35 (the Senate land claims bill which passed the Senate last year as S-1830) was good, but needed changes in the land provisions.

The changes he proposed closely parallel the provisions of a House bill introduced last month by Congressman Wayne Aspinall. This bill grants Native villages up to four times as much land as their village site in fee title, allowing subsistence use permits to be issued for up to

40 million acres of additional land.

Secretary Morton estimated the land granted by his proposed bill, which he said was presently being prepared by the Interior Department, as about 1 million acres. AFN counsel estimates the land at 80 thousand acres and calls the subsistence permits a "sham."

"We believe they (subsistence permits) are a sham, only good as long as the Secretary of the Interior gives the permits. They are totally discretionary on his part," Bass told the Board.

In a statement to President Nixon and to the Press the AFN Board of Directors expressed itself as "shocked, outraged, dismayed" at the provisions outlined by Secretary Morton (statement printed on Page 2.)

AFN President Don Wright, who was in Washington to appear at the hearings and attorney Bass were surprised and shocked

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AFN Pres. Berates Board Members

AFN President Don Wright Saturday angrily berated board members whom he said were telling people the AFN will support less than 60 million acres in a land claims settlement.

According to Wright, several

AFN members have told the press or written letters saying a 60 million acre settlement was a bargaining position and something they had no expectation of achieving.

"If you want 60 million acres

we'll fight for it—win, lose or draw but don't make me ask Senators and Congressmen to support us if our own people don't," Wright told the Board.

Wright cited letters to Senators from prominent AFN members which said they were not "naive enough to want 40 million acres and the people will be satisfied with 17 million acres."

He said a letter from John Borbridge written last year thanking the Senate for passing its 10 million acre land claims bill has been thrown in his face repeatedly.

"We stand on the Harris-Kennedy bill," explained AFN counsel Ken Bass, but it is a tough fight. Bass explained the dif-

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Nick Begich: Secretary Morton Appears Uninformed at Testimony

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton appears uninformed on what the provisions of the land claims bill he outlined before the Senate Interior committee means as far as land acreage, according to Congressman Nick Begich (D-Alaska).

"He was very indecisive on the land provisions in his statement," said Mr. Begich. "First he thought it came to one million, then as much as 4 million acres."

Begich believes that Secretary Morton presented a plan to the Interior Committee which substantially follows the provisions of the bill submitted in the House by House Interior Committee chairman Wayne Aspinall—but wasn't sure how many acres of land the Aspinall bill provided.

"We figure the Aspinall bill at a maximum of about 88,000 acres of land," said Begich. "It may be as low as 25,000 acres. It's still very, very low."

When he spoke to the Tundra Times yesterday (Feb. 23), Congressman Begich had just re-

ceived official notification of his appointment to subcommittees of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

The Congressman was appointed to the subcommittee on

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Harry Carter Succeeds Hopson As Executive Director of AFN

Harry E. Carter, founder and past president of the Kodiak Area Native Association was chosen Saturday as the new executive director of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

In a secret ballot, the AFN Board of Directors voted to have the 39 year old Kodiak resident replace Eben Hopson, who resigned last December to become special assistant to Governor William Egan.

The new executive director will probably start his job this week, filling the important administrative position which has been vacant since the end of

1970. With the AFN president and many board members in Washington, Carter will administer the AFN office and its various grants and programs.

Harry Carter organized the Kodiak Area Native Association in late 1966 and has at various times served as its president, vice president and secretary-treasurer.

He was one of the first Board members and organizers of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Since 1969, Carter has been president of the Kodiak Area Community Development Corporation, the regional organiza-

tion of RurAl CAP. He organized the Karluk Village Fisherman's Cooperative in 1969 and serves as its president.

During the past year, Carter has been a member of the RurAl CAP executive committee and during the last several years he has been active in most development operations in the Kodiak area. He is a past president of the Arctic Native Brotherhood.

Carter obtained his B.S. degree from the University of Alaska in 1959 and did graduate work in Public Health at the

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Pipeline Closely Tied to Alaska Native Claims

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C.—At the time the pipeline hearings concluded here last week, representatives of the oil companies argued that comprehensive pro-

ective measures will be taken to safeguard the environment along the pipeline route.

Launching strong attacks on the Interior Department's Environmental Impact Statement and on the Trans-Alaska pipeline project, conservationists pleaded for the preservation of Alaska's wilderness.

Most Alaska witnesses, the Governor and his staff and representatives of Native groups, offered testimony which set them apart from the polarized positions of conservation and oil.

"What is lacking in the draft report is a consideration in human terms of the terrible possibilities of loss or of what is to be done in terms of relieving human suffering and of meeting human needs," stated Don Wright, President of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

"What is needed also is a recognition that the best way to assure protection of the land is by invoking the participation of those most dependent on it," added Wright.

Wright also noted that the pipeline proposal is closely tied

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