

Tundra Times

Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak

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AFN GROUP UNIFIES POSITION



AFN BOARD MEETS—Native leaders conferred Saturday at a meeting of the Alaska Federation of Natives' Board of Directors. The leaders also worked to resolve problems arising in attorney relationships. Pictured, left to right, are Don Wright, Cook Inlet Native Association; Frank Degnan (hidden by Wright), Unalakleet; William

Hensley, Northwest Area Native Association; Emil Notti (center), AFN President; Flore Lekano, Aleut League; Harry Carter (hidden by Lekano), Kenai Native Association; Alfred Ketzler, President, Tanana Chiefs Conference; and Charles Franz, Bristol Bay Native Association.

—THOMAS RICHARDS, JR. Photograph

Group Puts Foot Down On Attorneys Saying They are 'Dispensable'

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.
Staff Writer

ANCHORAGE, (Special)—Native leaders reached unified positions on a number of points during a meeting of the Alaska Federation of Natives Board of Directors on Saturday.

Unanimous approval was reached on the great majority of policy decisions basic to the settlement of the native land claims.

Concerned about the dissension and confusion stemming from disagreement by regional counsel on terms of negotiating a contract with Justice Arthur Goldberg, native leaders declared that attorneys were dispensable and retained on a "hire, fire" basis with the final decisions resting with the natives.

The leaders then reaffirmed their decision to retain Justice Goldberg, inviting him to come to Alaska for the purpose of negotiating a contract with AFN.

The weekend meeting was attended by Congressman Howard Pollock who indicated that

he was pleased with the unity which had developed among native leaders. Pollock stated that he would do his best to sell the AFN position to Congress.

Four motions were made and passed unanimously. These outlined the position of the AFN on the land claims settlement.

The first called for a \$100 million initial settlement for lands which had been lost by Alaska natives. This figure was requested to be paid in the first year. The balance of the amount, an additional \$400 million, would be paid at the rate of \$50 million per year for eight years.

The leaders further requested, since the Indian claim to title would be extinguished with the passage of the land bill, and since payments would continue for eight subsequent years, the U.S. Government should pay interest on the unpaid balance of the remaining \$400 million at the current federal interest rate.

The third motion called for a 2 per cent overriding royalty, in perpetuity, on all lands in Alaska which would not be patented to natives.

The final request reaffirmed the AFN request that 40 million acres of land with fee title, be returned to the natives.

The amount of this in which natives would have priority of selection has not yet been determined, but it is expected that the AFN would ask for approximately 5 million acres in selection rights.

With basic agreement achieved on these major policy matters, Kodiak delegate Harry Carter requested that a motion be passed which would reaffirm the AFN desire to negotiate a con-

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Tanana Conference Pres. Alfred Ketzler to Stress Communications

Alfred Ketzler, the new President of the Tanana Conference, told the Tundra Times that he has placed a high priority on maintaining communication with the villages which belong to that organization.

Illness Cuts Meet

The Tundra Times was informed by reliable sources Wednesday that the Interior Department may withdraw two additional townships adjacent to each native village in Alaska as a partial continuation of the land freeze.

The possible action is seen as a move by the Department of the Interior to protect land currently claimed by Indian title.

It is thought that announcement of the action may be made by Secretary Hickel at departmental hearings, scheduled next week before the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

Word was also received Wednesday that Justice Goldberg had received a communication from the Alaska Federation of Natives which requested the Justice to come to Alaska for the purpose of negotiating a contract.

It is reported that Goldberg has the request under consideration and was to meet with Secretary Hickel on Wednesday afternoon.

It is expected that this meeting may be postponed as Hickel has been ill.

Ketzler said that he would correspond with the villages, aided by his wife, in an effort to maintain an awareness of new developments.

"We are going to try to put out a letter with information which has not been available before," he said. "One of the major concerns right now is, of course, the settlement."

Ketzler also indicated that he was hopeful that Justice Arthur Goldberg would be retained as Chief Counsel for the Alaska Federation of Natives and refuted charges that Goldberg would reap huge benefits from the relationship.

"I would like to see Goldberg hired. There are a number of points that should be decided, but I think we can," he said.

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Braund, Inc. to Build Water and Sewage Facilities for Bethel

Another step has been taken in providing sanitary water facilities to Alaskan native villages.

Congressman Howard Pollock announced Monday that the Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded a contract to an Anchorage firm to construct a water and sewer system in Bethel.

The Office of Congressman Pollock was informed of the decision by HUD officials, who say the system will serve some 250 units of new housing being built in Bethel.

The \$784,847 contract was awarded to Braund, Inc., of Anchorage. No completion date

was announced for the project.

The Bethel area was visited by Senator Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., who headed a number of touring legislators of the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Education, of which he is the chairman.

During the April tour, the senators noted that sanitary water and sewage facilities was among the most urgent requirements among the native villages.

Legislation before Congress, jointly introduced by Senator Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and Sen. Kennedy would provide sanitary water facilities for between 125 and 150 Alaskan villages.

Proud Moment—

AMU Honors Notti with Honorary Degree

Emil Notti, President of the Alaska Federation of Natives, was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by Alaska Methodist University.

The Doctor of Humane Letters Degree was awarded Notti by AMU at that school's ninth Commencement Ceremonies on Sunday, May 25.

The Alaskan Native has long

served his people in positions of leadership. In past years, he has been President of the Cook Inlet Native Association and Field Representative for the Alaska State Human Rights Commission.

Notti received the first doctorate ever awarded an Alaskan Native by Alaska Methodist University. He bears the distinction

of being one of very few natives to receive such a degree. Notti is also the first Athabascan Indian to be presented this honor.

Notti was born in Koyukuk and was raised on the Yukon River. He attended BIA boarding schools at Eklutna and Mt. Edgecumbe. He entered the Navy in 1952, attending electronic technician's school during the four

years that he was in the service.

He entered Marshall College, in West Virginia, following his discharge. Notti then transferred to the Northrop Institute of Technology in Inglewood, California, from which he graduated in 1961 with a Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering.

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