

# Sen. Ted Kennedy Enters Our Stories in Congressional Record

## Wendell Kay to Seek AFN Endorsement

Upon the request of Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., two Tundra Times articles on native land claims were printed in the Sept. 16 Congressional Record.

The news items were: "AFN Plans Fight for Fair Land Claims Settlement in U.S. House," Aug. 12 and "Survey: 'We Want More Land.' Statewide Check Shows Overwhelming Want for More Land in Claims Bill," July 29.

As Kennedy reiterated in his message to the Senate, he supported an amendment to the Senate land claims bill to provide for a land settlement of 40 million acres for the Alaska natives.

When the amendment failed to pass, he voted against the Senate bill because, he later said, he felt the 10 million-acre settlement in the bill was inadequate.

"I believe then and believe now," Kennedy told the Sen-

ate in September, "that for Alaska natives to share fully in the development of that State—their State—they must have more than the 10 million acres presently reserved to them by the Senate bill."

Kennedy added that it was clear to him that the natives are using over 80 million acres for their livelihood and sustenance, and thus have a valid claim to well over the 40 million acres they are requesting.

Kennedy said that he hoped the House, as it considers the land claims issue, "will keep in mind that what is involved here is not a grant of land to the natives, but a retention of land by them."

"Congress must not allow this bill to become but another step in the historical process of stripping native Americans of an adequate land base through governmental action. The monetary settlement provided in the Senate bill, large as it may seem, is minute by comparison with

the value of native lands to which the natives will be relinquishing title.

Kennedy concluded that native leaders have said that only a 40 million-acre settlement will be considered a fair one. "And a fair settlement is what Congress should be prepared to provide."

In addition to the two Tundra Times articles, the Senator also had a statement by Earl Old Person, president of the National Congress of American Indians, read into the record. In the statement, Old Person emphasized the need for at least 40 million acres for Alaska's natives.

Appearing in the Congressional Record Sept. 23 is a statement by Rep. Tunney of California in which the Representative joined Old Person and Emil Notti, president of the AFN, in calling for a land settlement of 40 million acres. He included a joint statement of Notti and Old Person in the record.

Wendell Kay, Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, said in Fairbanks that he will actively seek the native endorsement at the annual convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives in Anchorage, Oct. 15-17.

Talking informally in the Tundra Times office, he added that he would certainly be glad to have the support of both the AFN and of ANPEC, its political arm.

Such an endorsement, he added, will probably bring some backlash, but "I am willing to risk that."

Kay was present at the Tundra Times annual banquet Saturday night and sat at the head table as a representative for Sen. Mike Gravel.

Monday, he criticized his Republican opponent, incumbent Ted Stevens, for publicly announcing at the banquet that he was giving the paper a check for \$500.00.

Kay called the move "crass" and said that Stevens should have given the paper the

check privately. Stevens was not at the banquet but was represented by Mrs. Laura Bergt.

Criticism of Stevens is nothing new to the Kay campaign. He has been shooting with both guns at the Senator, contending that Stevens' nearly three years in the Senate have been unproductive.

Concerning the land claims issue, Kay contends that Stevens let the matter languish in the Senate Interior Committee for 18 months and finally got the bill out too late to get it through Congress before the election.

"I consider this ineffective," Kay stressed.

Kay said also that he would favor improving the Senate bill by increasing the amount of the land settlement to 20-40 million acres.

The Senate bill provides for only 10 million acres.

The politician added that he is still somewhat of an underdog but that he feels very good about the campaign.

## Vide Bartlett Named to Back Wendell Kay

Mrs. Vide Bartlett, widow of the late Senator E.L. "Bob" Bartlett, was today named Honorary Chairman of the Committee to Elect Wendell P. Kay to the United States Senate.

The announcement was made through the Kay campaign headquarters in Anchorage where Mrs. Bartlett has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Doris Ann Bartlett Riley for the past week.

Mr. Kay, a Democratic State Representative, is challenging Republican Senator Ted Stevens this November for the seat held by Bartlett, a Democrat, from the time of Statehood until his death in December, 1968.

Stevens was named to fill the Bartlett seat later that month by former Governor Walter J. Hickel. This year's winner of the Kay-Stevens contest will serve the remaining two years of the Bartlett term.

In accepting the post, Mrs. Bartlett said she would be "pleased to give as much time, and, hopefully, political advice, as I am able" to the Kay campaign. "I propose to build a committee of enthusiastic workers," she continued. "Bob worked closely with Wendell Kay on a variety of matters over the years and I know he admired his ability, integrity, and strong sense of public service."

"I am thoroughly delighted that Vide has agreed to work with us in this campaign," commented Kay. "Her advice and assistance will be invaluable to us during the next month and thereafter. Those of us who have known Vide over the years regard her as the first lady of Alaska, and this would be true even were her last name not Bartlett."

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Andy Milner, Campaign Chairman