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Cooperation in the Native community

Leaders express hope for '1991' bill

by Patty Ginsburg
for the Tundra Times

As the U.S. Congress convenes this week, representatives of both tribal and corporate interests appear at least cautiously optimistic about the prospects for passage of 1991 amendments to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The source of optimism seems to be a combination of cooperation in the Native community, an early start with the new congressional session and a different political profile in Congress.

One of the first pieces of legislation to be introduced in the new session is last year's House version of the 1991 amendments, designed to help Alaska Natives protect their lands, maintain control of the ANCSA corporations and provide for Natives born after the settlement act was signed in 1971.

"I'm an eternal optimist," said Morris Thompson of Doyon Ltd., co-chairman of the Alaska Federation of Natives. "I feel that all the Native organizations will recognize the importance of these issues, and we'll come to an understanding so that our

differences don't divide us."

AFN's plan, Thompson said, is to reintroduce, with few if any changes, the version passed by the House last year.

"We don't want to tinker with it too much since the House already passed it," and major changes in the House could jeopardize the commitment of House members to pass it out again, he said.

Although proposed technical changes to the bill could be added while it's still in the House, Thompson said any substantive changes

agreed to by the Native community would likely be added after the bill reaches the Senate.

"Then, if the bill gets to the Senate early enough — hopefully by mid-summer — then it could go on to a conference committee to iron out any differences between the two versions," he said.

Under AFN's anticipated timeline, the bill would go to President Reagan for signature no later than September.

Thompson said the Alaska Native

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Jackson elected to Kake Corp.

Gordon Jackson was elected president and chief executive officer of Kake Tribal Council Corp. at the annual meeting in Kake last month, replacing Clarence Jackson Sr.

Tension throughout the meeting Dec. 20 had focused on two options: a proposed distribution of a large sum of money gained through the sale of net operating losses or placing the funds into the Kake Tribal Permanent Fund. Following hours of debate, an advisory vote was taken by the shareholders present at the meeting.

"The vote to distribute won by a very, very slim margin," said the new president, Gordon Jackson. "However, shareholders must understand the vote does not mean an automatic distribution."

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ADF&G predicts low salmon return

Preliminary projections for 1987 salmon returns call for a commercial harvest of about 94 million salmon, compared to a 1986 harvest of about 129 million salmon, according to the December *Fish & Game Bulletin* of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

As in 1986, pink salmon should make up the bulk of the 1987 harvest, with an anticipated harvest of 54 million fish.

The sockeye salmon catch should be about 21 million fish, followed by chum salmon at 12 million fish, coho at 5 million fish and 500,000 chinook salmon.

In addition, Division of Commercial Fisheries biologists are expecting the 1987 herring sac-roe harvest to be in the range of 33,000 to 37,000 short tons.

This is less than the approximately 49,000 short tons harvested in 1986.

As with last year, the Togiak harvest will be the largest in the state and is expected to be about 12,220 tons.

The Sitka Sound harvest should be about 3,600 tons, Prince William Sound about 4,200 tons, Lower Cook Inlet about 3,900 tons and Norton Sound about 4,000 tons.

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Mary Jane Musson of Kodiak seems to be wondering what all the fuss is about while resting in the arms of her mother, Gertrude. Mary Jane was the first 1987 baby born at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. The time of birth was 8:56 a.m., Jan. 1.

photo by Norris Klesman

Galas celebrate inauguration of Cowper

Inaugural Balls to celebrate the swearing in of Alaska's sixth governor, Steve Cowper, will be held throughout the state this month.

Acting as honorary chairpersons are First Lady Michael Cowper and former First Lady Neva Egan. The executive director is Cathy Allen, former

campaign manager of Alaskans for Cowper/McAlpine.

The first ball was in Fairbanks Saturday. The Anchorage receptions and ball will be Friday, preceded on Thursday by a Senior's Tea at the Anchorage Senior Center, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free to the tea.

Tickets for the Anchorage ball are \$40 each, which includes receptions at the Hotel Captain Cook, the Anchorage Hilton Hotel and the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The receptions are followed by

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