

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

SENATE COMMITTEE'S LAND BILL PACKAGE

(From ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS)

WASHINGTON—Here are the major provisions of the Alaska Native land claims legislation approved by Senate Interior Committee:

Declaration of Policy

The act is a final settlement of all land claims of Alaska Native people and villages. Settlement provides for: Land grants to individuals and Native villages; the organization of modern corporate enterprises; a federal appropriation of \$500 million over a 12-year period; a limited right to share in revenues derived from the mineral resources of Alaska; and protection of subsistence resources used by Native people.

Persons Eligible

Persons eligible for benefits under the act are Alaska Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts of one-fourth degree or more blood who are citizens of the United States. The Alaska Native Commission prepares a final roll listing the names of those who are found eligible.

Compensation

An authorization for \$500 million of federal funds to be paid over a 12-year period is provided. These funds are paid to the Alaska Native Services and Development Corporation which distributes them to Native people and villages, and to the Alaska Native Investment Corporation.

Funds are paid pursuant to the following schedule:

Year	Millions
1	\$20
2	\$50
3	\$70
4	\$70
5	\$70
6	\$40
7-12	\$30
annually, equals	\$180

Total—\$500 Million

The services corporation receives 80 per cent of the funds in the first year and the investment corporation receives 20 per cent. These figures change yearly, and by the end of 12 years, the services corporation receives 40 per cent and the investment corporation receives 60 per cent.

Alaska Native Commission

1. An Alaska Native Commission is created. The commission would terminate at the end of 7 years or earlier if its duties are completed.

2. Duties:

- (A) Preparation of final membership roll.
- (B) Preparation of final village roster.
- (C) Determination of boundary questions and disputes.
- (D) Review and approval of certain land transactions.

3. Commission would have a small legal staff, hearing examiners if necessary, and clerical staff.

4. Commission would consist of 5 members, at least 2 of whom must be Alaska Natives; appointed by the President; subject to Senate confirmation; and to be compensated by the federal government.

Alaska Native Corporations

The proposed bill would establish two statewide corporations. One would perform social services and betterment function and one would engage exclusively in investments and business for profit activities. Individual villages are required to establish non-profit membership corporations under Alaska state law to hold title to and to transfer lands granted by the bill to individuals. Lands are also granted to existing municipally incorporated bodies and incentives would be estab-

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lished to encourage villages to establish municipal forms of government.

1. An "Alaska Native Services and Development Corporation" which would be a non-profit membership corporation would be established to administer and disburse appropriated funds and funds received from revenue sharing to native villages and to individuals.

(A) There would be an 18-member board of directors;

(1) Four members appointed by the President;

(II) Fourteen members elected by Alaska Natives, one from each geographical region designated by the commission and one from each area served by the two urban subsidiary corporations;

(B) An appropriate staff with legal, financial, social and public works expertise would provide advice and assistance to the villages and the Alaska Native people.

(C) The duties of the services corporation would include:

(I) Review and approval of village plans;

(II) Distribution of funds to villages and to individuals;

(III) Distribution of funds to the two subsidiary urban corporations;

(IV) Hold title to and administer the leasable mineral estate of lands granted under the bill;

(V) Hold title to and administer the lands granted for economic potential and development.

(D) The services corporation would have a 13-year term of existence. At the end of 13 years, at the option of the Native members, the services corporation would be merged into the investment corporation or would be reorganized as an ordinary business for profit corporation under state law.

(E) No regional corporations or subsidiary regional corporations would be established.

The appropriate regional associations could, however, if they desired, establish "advisory boards" to develop regional plans and to consult with and make recommendations to the services corporation.

(F) Two urban Native corporations would be established, one for urban Natives in Alaska, and one for Natives living outside of Alaska. The urban corporations would be subsidiaries of the Services Corporation and would be authorized to distribute funds in a manner which reflects the fact that the needs of urban Natives are different from those of Native people living in villages.

2. Village corporations, both municipal and non-profit membership corporations, would hold

title to village lands. The village corporations would patent land to residents, owners of businesses, and others such as church groups. Village corporations would also:

(A) Be required to patent to municipal corporations the immediate land area in and around the village; this would be municipally-owned land and on the payment of fair market value any citizen could acquire land for a residence or a business;

(B) Be required to patent land used for homesites and businesses to occupants within the villages;

(C) Devise and present plans for distribution of funds to the services corporation.

Provisions are included to encourage villages which are not already incorporated as units of municipal government under Alaska state law. The State Services Corporation could grant funds to boroughs and municipalities in predominantly Native areas for the purpose of providing matching funds for federal grant-in-aid programs.

3. An "Alaska Native Investment Corporation" would have a 12-member Board of Directors;

(I) Four members elected by Alaska Natives;

(II) Five members appointed by the President;

(III) Three non-Native members elected by (I) and (II) above.

(B) The Board of Directors, subject to the Security Exchange Commission's approval, would award a contract to a "Business Management Group." The management group would be responsible for managing the investment corporation's assets, subject to the terms of the act, the Investment Company Act of 1940, and the policies established by the board. At the end of three years the board, at its option, could develop an in-house management and investment capacity and terminate any existing management contracts.

(C) The board would be charged with the responsibility of making balanced and prudent investments in:

(I) A portfolio of sound national and international investments;

(II) Business activities having an impact on sectors of the economy especially important to the State of Alaska and Alaska Natives; and

(III) Enterprises wholly or partially owned by Alaska Natives.

(D) The investment company would be designed so that it could on most business investments:

(I) Maintain a creditor's protected interest which, at the option of the board of directors, could:

(II) Be converted into a pre-designated equity interest at a

point in time when business uncertainties had been minimized and value had been established.

(E) The investment corporation would issue shares of stock to all Alaska Natives on the final membership roll. Dividends would be declared by the Board of Directors. The stock would be inalienable for a period of 15 years.

(F) At the end of 12 years all stock would be recalled and a new class of stock would be issued. Ten per cent of the new class of stock would go to the "Alaska Native Foundation." The remainder would go to Alaska Natives and would become freely alienable within three years.

Alaska Native Foundation

At the end of 12 years, a charitable foundation, the "Alaska Native Foundation," would be established. The foundation would receive 10 per cent of the stock of the investment corporation and the successor to the services corporation. The foundation's purpose would be educational and charitable, and it would carry on the social betterment functions previously performed by the services corporation.

Withdrawal of Public Lands for Villages

Subject to valid existing rights, public lands in townships contiguous to, or cornering, on the township in which each village is located are withdrawn from entry under the public land laws. The withdrawal lasts for two years.

Villages entitled to select lands are listed in the bill. The bill also provides a procedure for adding villages not listed in the bill if they meet the requirements of the act.

Village Land Grants

Villages having a population of 400 or more Natives would be entitled to select up to two townships. Villages with less than 400 Native population would be entitled to select up to one township. The amount of land could be based upon population, historic use, foreseeable needs, and value of the lands. The acreage determination would be made by the commission based upon the recommendations of the village,

the secretary, and the state. The decision of the commission would be final.

Villages located in the national forest would be entitled to receive up to one township only regardless of their population.

Provision is made for the grant of land to Native groups not qualified as Native villages under the act, to Natives not living in villages, and for fishing and hunting camps.

Certain lands classified as "subsistence use units" around villages may, in emergency situations, be closed to non-resident hunting and fishing if the State of Alaska and the Secretary of the Interior determine that an emergency exists with respect to the conservation of fish and game resources within that area.

Land Selection for Economic Potential

The services corporation is granted the right to select 2 million acres of public lands for their timber potential. The corporation also may select an additional 1 million acres to be used to avoid hardship and to protect areas of unique cultural and historical significance.

Revenue Sharing

Two per cent of the revenues derived from the disposition of leasable minerals on the public lands in Alaska would be paid into the Alaska Native compensation funds until a total of \$500 million is reached. Lands patented to the state under the Statehood Act are excluded, but tentatively approved and selected lands are included to insure that the state makes a contribution to the settlement.

Attorney's Fees and Expenses

Compensation of attorneys for fees and expenses incurred in connection with the Alaska Native land claims legislation, or in connection with claims pending before the Indian Claims Commission which have been dismissed by the terms of the act, would be set by the chief commissioner of the Court of Claims. The bill provides that the fees shall be paid on an hourly basis for services actually performed.

Letters to the Editor

Fairbanks, Alaska
April 19, 1970

Dear Editor,

In behalf of the Fairbanks Native Association and the Annual Potlatch Committee we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for the wonderful support statewide and locally given to our fast growing event.

We thank the following and many others:

Market Basket
Safeway
Foodland
Daily News Miner (Mike Dalton)
K FAR (Maury Smith and the Problem Corner
Tundra Times
People of the Villages

Participants in the food, dances and cultural activities.

Sincerely,
Poldine Carlo

Nulato, Alaska
April 16, 1970

Dear Friend:

It's a long time yet till August, the primary. Anything could happen between then.

After the big potlatch I was on the same plane with people from Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket and Galena. We were two days at Galena waiting for transportation. In the meantime, most of these people from these villages tell me I cannot or shouldn't back out of anything after it was in the papers, etc. The way they talked to me, I just have to run. Of course that's on the Democratic ticket, as everyone should know now.

I have no high school diploma or anything like that, but living here all my life, and the experience should be better than a college graduate. When experienced man talks, just listen.

Now this is the reason I'm against homesteading, like trapline, fish camp, even the place where I'm living now. Pick up your maps. I trapped on the Innoko River, at the mouth of the Mud River, up the north fork of Huslia River.

That's close to 400 miles long. And the width of it is between Kateel and the head of the Yuki River that's 150 miles.

Now I want to go rattling up

(Continued on page 6)