

## Indians Pressing Calif. Suit

On Thursday, May 7th, Judge B. Abbott Goldberg of the Sacramento Superior Court continued in force an order barring the State Advisory Commission on Indian Affairs from holding closed meetings or destroying its records, pending another hearing on July 31st.

The postponement of the hearing was requested by the State Attorney General's office which represented the Commission and its members, including Chairman John L. Harmer, State Senator from Glendale.

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### HELP WANTED

Alaska Legal Services now has an opening for an Investigator/Community Aide in Bethel. Ability to communicate with native Alaskan persons considered essential. Contact Margaret Nick, Bethel, Phone: 543-2283 or write to William H. Jacobs, Executive Director, Alaska Legal Services Corp., 425 "G" St., Suite 630, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501.

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

If you qualify for any of these jobs, or are looking for a job, contact the ALASKA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, located at 6th and Barnette, in the State Court and Office Building, Room 131. Their hours are from 8:30 to 12 noon and one to five in the afternoon, Monday through Friday. Call 452-1501.

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The Attorney General also asked the Court to dismiss the legislator members of the Indian Affairs Commission from the suit, claiming that they were privileged against any kind of lawsuit while the legislature is in session.

However, Judge Goldberg did not dismiss the suit against them but asked for further legal points on the question.

The suit was brought by the California Indian Education Association and a number of other Indian organizations, tribes and individuals.

It was the result of months of protests by Indians throughout the state against the State Advisory Commission on Indian Affairs, (none of whose members are Indian) for disregarding Indian wishes and holding secret meetings in violation of the state public meeting law.

The case was filed on behalf of the Indians by California Indian Legal Services, a statewide OEO program.

David Risling, Jr., a member of the Hoopa Tribe and President of the BLM DENIES...

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Mattice stated that the Alaskan Natives are suffering as a result of the action. "Their rights are being protected so much that they don't have any," he said.

It is expected that an appeal may be filed on behalf of the villages by the Fairbanks BIA Office. The appeal would have to come within 30 days of the rejection.

Mattice indicated that he hopes to travel to the villages and assist in the appeal so that it may be filed before the deadline.

dent of the nationally recognized California Indian Education Association, said, concerning the court hearings:

"The Indian Affairs Commission, under Chairman Harmer, has closed its meetings to the Indian people. Now it is also trying to shut the courthouse door in their faces, so that they won't have any legal way of stopping the Commission's undemocratic and illegal closed meetings. This amounts to an admission that Senator Harmer and the Commission have been violating the law. They're afraid to even let a court hear the case."

On the legislative front, Senator Collier, most powerful legislator on the Indian Affairs Commission, announced that he is resigning from the Commission.

### COMSAT...

(Continued from page 1)

\$10 million and \$12 million. It is scheduled to become operational in the summer of 1970.

Once complete, the Talkeetna station will transmit telephone, telegraph, television, and radio signals by satellite.

The other major development announced by Pollock's office is the decision by the Alaska Communications System Evaluation Board to select the successful bidder for the purchase of the Air Force ACS by this coming July.

The statewide telegraph and telephone system, first operated by the Army and now by the Air Force, will be sold to a private firm. The sale will result in the state's first privately owned telegraph and telephone system.

## Townsite Liens...

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tives through native allotments. He stated that the action, originating in the Anchorage land office, is "capricious and should not be allowed."

Native allotments are granted on the basis of previous occupancy and prior use of the land. Mattice said that state law is subject to valid existing rights, which would include rights derived from native occupancy. He concludes that the state action is therefore illegal.

"Legally, the land is still held by the federal government, although the native can do anything he wants with it," Mattice said. He also stated that the native's right to the land supercedes state and local restrictions, giving the land a non-taxable status.

He states that legal decisions have declared attempts by state and local governments to tax native allotments to be illegal. Mattice made specific reference to an opinion rendered in the Third District Court for the Territory of Alaska, Third Division, filed against the City of Kodiak on June 22, 1955.

The City of Kodiak had acted

to foreclose tax liens on such restricted lands. The opinion, rendered by U.S. District Judge J.L. McCarrey, Jr., concluded that the city was powerless to tax, foreclose, or sell the lands.

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