## Deadline for Justice Backs Native Oriented Proposals...

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sation for the remaining 300 million acres they feel are beyond the possibility of saving. Their hopes are expressed in legislation submitted to Congress, and presently pending before the House and Senate Interior Committees."

THE CONTROVERSY

"To the Alaska Natives, the land is their life; to the State of Alaska, it is a commodity to be bought and sold," declares Deadline for Justice. "Alaska Native families depend on the land and its waters for the food they eat, hunting and fishing as they have done for thousands of years."

The brochure points out that the present dispute between the State and the natives has its origins in a century of inaction by Congress.

The State claims the right to 103 million acres from the public domain under a provision of the 1958 Statehood Act.

"The Natives rely on a pledge by Congress in 1884 to respect their aboriginal claims, buttressed by a provision included by Congress in the Statehood Act that subjects the State's selection to their prior aboriginal claims," the brochure declares.

"In 1867," it continues, "when the United States acquired Alaska from Russia, it purchased not the lnad itself but only the right to tax and to govern. Our Government recognized at that time, in accordance with long-standing Federal policy and Supreme Court precedent, that the land belonged to the original occupants—the Native people of the villages."

The brochure states that Congress in the Organic Act of 1884 establishing a territorial government in Alaska, acknowledged the Natives' right to the land,

stating: "The Indians . . . shall not be disturbed in the possession of any lands actually in their use or now claimed by them."

Congress at that time, however, postponed for future legislation the matter of conveying title to the natives. Congress has yet to act.

"Until the Statehood Act there was no massive threat to Native land rights or their way of life," states the brochure. "Indeed, prior to 1939 the Natives were a majority in Alaska and even today non-Natives use only a minute fraction of the land.

"To protect Native land rights against the new State, Congress provided that the 'State and its

people do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title . . . to any lands or fishing (including property rights), the right or title to which may be held by any Indians, Eskimos, or Aleuts.

"Nonetheless the State subsequently moved to take over lands clearly used and occupied by Native villages and to claim, under the 1958 Act, royalties from Federal oil and gas leases on Native lands."

The brochure continued that the Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, without informing the villages affected and ignoring the claims they had on file, began to process the State's selections.

The lands of the Minto Indians, where the lakes provide one of the best duck-breeding grounds in the world, were slated to be taken over by the State for the recreation of sports hunters and vacationers.

"The Indians of Tanacross Village were to discover that their lands on beautiful Lake George were being offered for sale at the New York World's Wilderness Estates, Deadline for Justice declares.

The brochure went on to explain that the events that took place after the Statehood Act accellerated the formation of native organizations for their common defense against encroachments.

It further pointed out that this newspaper, Tundra Times, a native weekly, was founded to provide a voice for native aspirations.

"In 1964, Indian and Eskimo leaders from across the State met in Fairbanks to mobilize their joint forces; and two years later the statewide Alaska Federation of Natives was formed to champion Native rights," said the brochure.

The brochure continued that in 1966, then Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, with statutory responsibility to protect the interests of the natives, finally acted to block the State.

Alaska's then Gov. Walter J. Hickel condemned this act as illegal and the State filed suit against Secretary Udall in federal court to force him to continue state selections of "certain Native lands."

This case, now known as State versus Hickel, is scheduled to begin this morning at 9:30 a.m. in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

of the Alaska State Legislative Council and conducted by the Brookings Institution of Washington, D.C., came out in good percentage toward a surprising trend of native oriented proposals for the future.

The most mentioned need for Alaska was the improvement of education in the state, in some cases stressing that schools in villages were important, at least through high school where the family relationships were deemed important.

The seminar also came strongly that the state should work toward helping the resolution of the native land claims and that an appropriation from the state general fund to be used for a positive state position on the settlement of the native land claims directed toward equitable

in San Francisco.

"The hopes of the Native people gained new force when, in July 1969, Arthur J. Goldberg, former Supreme Court Justice and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, agreed to represent their cause before Congress as a public service. Associated with him in this effort are Ramsey Clark, former Attorney General, and Thomas Kuchel, former U.S. Senator from California," Deadline for Justice went on.

"Ten years ago few Alaskans in position of power recognized the validity and the urgency of Alaska Native land rights. Today the Natives are united and their newly discovered political strength has gained respect for their cause."

The brochure contents include: The Land and the People; The Controversy; The Validity of Native Claims to Alaska Land; and the Terms of Settlement.

The summary declares: "In view of the Natives' legal rights, their social and economic needs, and the value of the land to which they have rightful claim, the settlement the Alaska Federation of Natives seeks is just, reasonable, and humane. It will afford a wise and courageous Native people a meaningful opportunity for self-determination and the base for a better life for themselves and their children.

"IN ALASKA, the United States and its people are offered a priceless opportunity-and its last real chance—to do justice to its aboriginal people, whose treatment in the past has reflected little glory on our Nation."

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settlement for all Alaskans. Other areas were mentioned such as vocations, working with adults, fisheries and oceanography and again, a special emphasis on rural schools.

Well over a hundred prominent citizens of Alaska from throughout the state assembled in Anchorage in an attempt to lay foundations for future Alaska

based on the \$900 million the state received from the oil lease sales last September.

"Employment impact of industry does not do much for local hire," Arlon Tussing pointed out. "... There is a philosophy for development's sake."

He cited as an example the southeastern lumber industry where businesses have prospered but that employment has not gained proportionately.

Tussing made a broad hint that some of the \$900 million. should be spent and that he got the idea that many wanted to spend only the interest.

He said that if it was done in that manner, "you're wasting capital because it's worth less the longer you keep it. It will be taking from the poor us and giving it to the rich-those in the future."

Tussing also pointed out that "the state needs continuous flow consultants" to study the needs for Alaska future. He said that because of Alaska's unique position in the Arctic, the state could become a renown center for northern studies that could include oceanography, fisheries and other related types of Arctic research.

He also pointed out that the state was in a good position to develop extension programs for the outlying areas. He added that

the people of the North Slope (Eskimos) be given their share of the state's oil lease sale income.

Just give them their share of the whole thing. Give them \$1,000 per person share," suggested Tussing.

On the latter portion of the initial day's morning session of the seminar, the conferees were divided into four groups John Osman called, Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta. The groups then sat down to discuss such matters

-Whether to spend some of the principal of the \$900 million or its interest.

-Education and research in education.

-Economic development's sake.

-Whether to have an independent board or trustees to guide expenditures or give that to the state legislature.

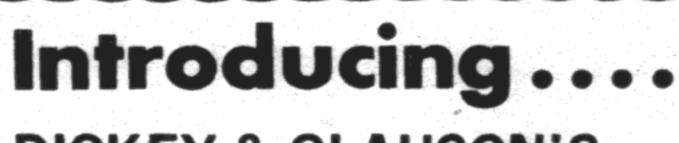
Native land claims.

In the Alpha section of the seminar conducted by James Mitchell, the group leaned toward research on matters such as education system of the state and education in the rural areas.

During the course of the threeday seminar, many other needs of Alaska were mentioned among them airports, communications, and housing.

On the final day of the conference, a participant stated, "There are plenty of details, but the basic point is-we're going to invest in Alaska-its people and its physical aspects."

The next seminar will be on November 23-26 in Anchorage. Two other will take place on December 7-10 and December 14-17, also in Anchorage.

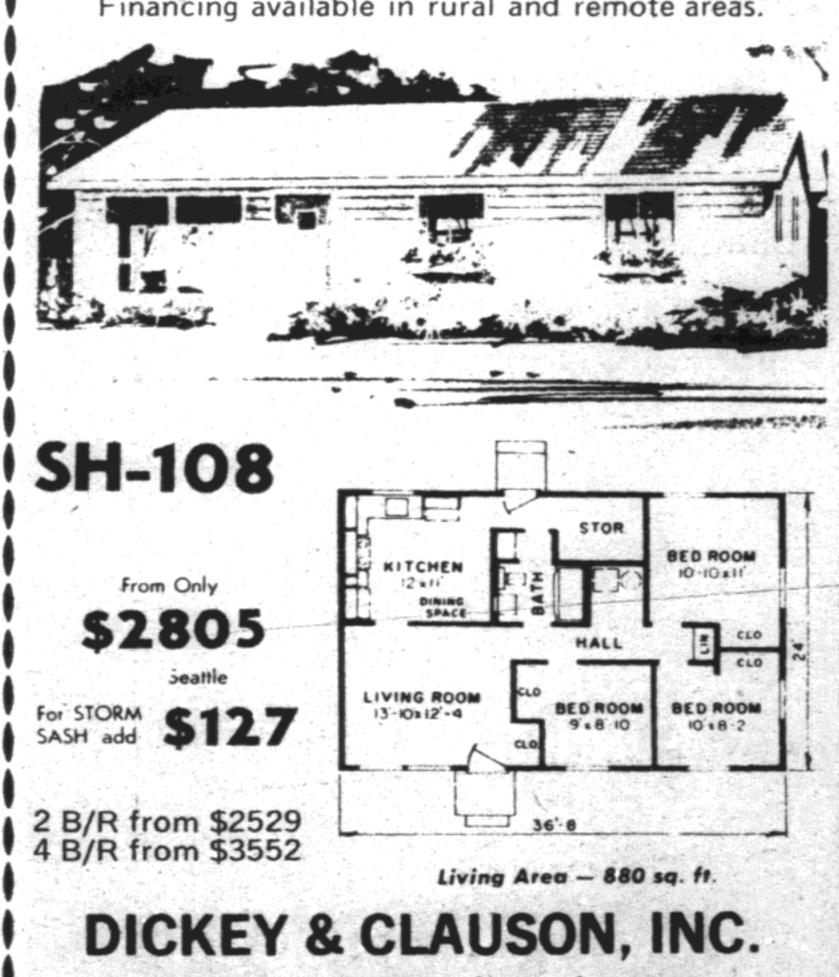


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