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AFN'S DON WRIGHT OUSTED



OUSTED AFN PRESIDENT — Donald R. Wright who has been a dynamic president of the statewide organization was voted out of his office last Saturday on the grounds of mismanagement

of his office. Wright expended tremendous energy working for equitable settlement of Alaska Native land claims.

— LAEL MORGAN Photograph

Board Votes to Divest Duties of President, Hensley Picked as Head

By MARGIE BAUMAN
(Courtesy of Anchorage Daily News)

ANCHORAGE — Board members of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., have ousted President Donald Wright and elected state Sen. Willie Hensley of Kotzebue to head the statewide organization.

The move came Saturday in the second day of a four day meeting of the board at Anchorage.

Wright argued that he had called for the meeting to be held at the Wildwood education facility near Kenai and that the Anchorage session was not an official board meeting.

The friction and election of one Alaska native land claims leader to replace another came amidst reports of mounting



NEW AFN PRESIDENT — Sen. Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue, was elected AFN president to replace Don Wright.

Will Fight Ouster

Don Wright will fight ouster saying he is duly elected president by the people. See story on page 6.

Sealaska Corporation Doing Something About This

There exists today in Alaska twelve giant corporations whose stockholders are officially unknown.

The corporations in question are the regional native profit-making corporations provided for under the Land Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971.

The stockholders-to-be will be those Alaskan Natives of 1/4 Eskimo, Aleut, or Indian blood who enroll under the terms of the Act. This enrollment which commenced April 3, 1972, will

not be completed until March 30, 1973.

In the interim, decisions are being made, actions are being taken, and benefits planned which will affect the lives of stockholders for many years to come.

How do you communicate with an unidentified stockholder?

John Borbridge, Jr., chairman of the board and president of one such corporation, SEALASKA, refuses to wait until

official recognition of stockholders to initiate and maintain communication lines.

He has issued a "Newsletter of Future Stockholders of SEALASKA Corporation." Borbridge informs his future shareholders of all actions leading up to the incorporation of SEALASKA, he announces the receipt of \$500,000 advance funding from the federal government, and he gives the names of the five incorporators, the elected board, all advisors hired to date.

A step-by-step rundown on all major actions from the selection of an insurance company and a bank, to the retaining of a law firm, an accounting and management firm, and an engineering architectural, and planning firm to assist in land selections and design of office space.

The offices of SEALASKA are temporarily located in the Baranof Hotel in Juneau.

Borbridge's letter went out to members of the Central Council of the Tlingit-Haida, (Continued on page 6)

financial troubles for AFN which fought successfully for a 40 million acre, nearly 1 billion land claims settlement.

The 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act allotted neither funds nor land to the statewide federation whose membership consists of representatives of 12 regional native corporations so deficits do not effect future income of native stockholders. Government grants for social services and regional contributions have financed its operations.

The session began Friday with an auditors report showing deficits running to thousands of

dollars per month made to an informal board meeting.

Auditors made a red-ink analysis of operations of the old AFN and AFN, Inc. organized in January.

"There is a lack of documentation in the land lobbying effort and all records are in very poor shape," said the auditors report.

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Selections Regulations—

Interior Dept. Sets Forth Procedures

The Department of the Interior has published regulations that set forth the procedure under which the native people in Alaska can select the public lands granted them under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Enacted in December 1971, this act gives the native groups the right to select 40 million acres of public land in settlement of claims that date back to the time of the purchase of Alaska.

In publishing the regulations, Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton said he hoped to encourage all eligible natives and native groups to make their land selections as soon as possible.

The new regulations implement the provisions of the act and spell out the way individual natives, Village Corporations, and regional corporations can

apply for specific tracts of public land.

The regulations also call for interim management by the Federal Government of all lands until final patents have been issued.

The regulations were published in the Federal Register on Thursday, September 21.

Chief Justice Rabinowitz—

Justices Unanimously Pick Him to Succeed Boney

Acting Chief Justice Jay A. Rabinowitz has been unanimously chosen by fellow members of state Supreme Court to assume the post of Chief Justice on a permanent basis.

Gov. William A. Egan made the announcement in Juneau Thursday morning. Egan origin-

ally appointed Rabinowitz judge of the Superior Court in Fairbanks in 1960.

Five years later he was elected to the high court and is the senior member of that body.

Rabinowitz assumed the role of Chief Justice on a temporary

basis upon the tragic death of Chief Justice George R. Boney, August 30 in a boating accident near Anchorage.

On Monday, Sept. 25, Rabinowitz was officially sworn in to serve a three year term as Chief Justice. The ceremony was held in Fairbanks at 8 p.m., Monday.

Chiefs Conference Convenes Today

The Tanana Chiefs Conference convened in Fairbanks this morning at Travelers Inn. Representatives from 38 Athabascan interior villages will attend the three-day session.

The agenda will cover activities of the DNH Corporation, a

profitmaking venture of the Tanana Chiefs, as well as the newly-formed DOYON, Inc.

DOYON is the name of the regional corporation formed under the terms of the Native Land Claims Settlement Act. In July of this year, DOYON received a check for \$500,000, advance payment to set up and operate the new corporation, and to assist in activities relating to land selections.

Land selection will be high on the list of priorities for discussion at the Conference. Richard Frank, Land Chief, and Robert Jenks, consultant will outline their office's activities to date.

The meetings are open to the public but space is limited and preference will be given to recognized delegates.