

# Leader Raps Squabblers on North Slope Leases . . .

very long for those on the outside who had tended to be sympathetic to the native claims to holler injustice when they were stepped on when they knew in the first place they had taken advantage of the native people. "Is there ever going to be a time," Hopson asks, "when we might find a non-native—a single

non-native—who is earnestly sympathetic to our problems and contribute to the final end of making a reasonable settlement? "Are we to assume that the attitude of the non-native is such that so long as their pockets are full of green stuff derived, incidentally, from a piece of property claimed and owned by the

natives, that everything is fine? "What manner of conscience is this? "I wonder how far a guy could get with the idea of advancing the thought of applying this procedure to the principles of law. "First, it's a foregone conclusion that the ownership of

the lands on the North Slope belong to the Eskimos by use and occupancy since time immemorial. "Second, taking someone else's property knowingly and without consent is plain robbery, thievery, grand larceny, call it anything—just plain stealing. "Third, I could take one par-

ticular case in which land was taken from one of us where actual buildings were wrecked and the land sold to someone. This would apply to each lease holder, and with the thought of collecting in each instant, this may be better than trying to make a settlement through Congress. "Let all who will, grab those lands while we prepare to fight them in court. I promise you there will be hell to pay. . ."

## Leader's Views on Confirmation Hearing . . .

discuss, with Mr. Hickel, his desire for a public endorsement by the AFN relative to his confirmation as Secretary of the Interior. Saturday, December 28: The AFN President Emil Notti, and First Vice-President, John Borbridge, Jr., discussed the requested endorsement in several conferences. Public statements made by the Secretary-designate since his nomination for that office were reviewed and discussed. We phoned the Governor to elicit his ideas and to express our concern. We felt that we could not endorse without explicit guarantees relative to the protection of our land rights and that such protection could be best achieved by the retention of the land freeze until Congress could act or an alternative acceptable to and consented to by the Natives was evolved. Telephone poll of AFN Board of Directors underway. Question discussed on conference telephone call with AFN President, First-Vice-President, AFN general counsel, and Central Council general counsel.

Sunday, December 29: The telephone poll of the AFN Board of Directors continued. Endorsement received from one Native organization. Meeting of AFN Board of Directors had been scheduled for Fairbanks on January 10 and 11, at which time it was anticipated the question of endorsement would be discussed.

December 30, 31 and January 1 and 2: Daily meetings with AFN President. Conferences, phone calls to Central Council Executive Committee, AFN Board of Directors and general counsel continued. Materials bearing on the Native land claims and land freeze were being compiled. Information gathering relative to State land selections and applications for federal mineral (oil) leases in areas claimed by Alaska Natives proceeded. State land selection activity in areas claimed by Alaska Natives became increasingly clear.

Friday, January 3: The Alaska Federation of Natives was urged to move its Board meeting up to an earlier date on the basis an endorsement by January 10 would "not do any good." Calls were made to various Native Associations in which the pros and cons of a blanket endorsement were discussed. Communications and research continued.

Saturday, January 4: Endorsements came from four Native organizations. Conferences continued.

Sunday, January 5: The AFN Board of Directors members arriving in Anchorage were briefed and preparations finalized. Telephone contact with Central Council general counsel was maintained as it became clear that millions of acres of land selected by the State and applications for federal mineral leases to 5-10 million acres in areas claimed by us were at stake.

Tuesday, January 7: The Board of Directors of the AFN met in Anchorage. An open letter to Governor Hickel was unanimously adopted by the AFN Board of Directors. A four man delegation consisting of President Emil Notti, 1st Vice-President John Borbridge, Jr., 2nd Vice-President Eben Hopson, and Board member Willie Hensley was instructed to go to Washington, D.C. that evening for the purpose of ascertaining the views of Secretary-designate Walter J. Hickel concerning the land freeze and proposed policies affecting Alaska Native land rights. The delegation was given a mandate to endorse or oppose confirmation based on this clarification.

Wednesday, January 8: Travel status. Appointment with Senator Mike Gravel.

Thursday, January 9: Appointment with Congressman Howard Pollock, Senator Mike Gravel, and Senator Ted Stevens.

Appointment with Senator Henry Jackson, Chairman of Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Appointment with Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall.

Friday, January 10: AFN open letter delivered to Secretary-designate Hickel and made available to the press. Press release to accompany letter prepared. Breakfast appointment with the Secretary-designate Walter Hickel attended by President Notti, and Vice-President, John Borbridge, Jr.

Appointment with Senator Lee Metcalf.

Continued preparation of material on land claims.

Saturday, January 11: Open letter to Secretary-designate Walter Hickel and press statement released to press. Next several days given in large part to numerous interviews on Alaska Native claims.

Appointments with Committee Staff and Administrative Assistants.

Television interview (subject - Alaska Native land claims - National distribution)

Appointment with Senator Stevens, and Senator Mike Gravel.

Appointment with Senator McGovern, Chairman of Subcommittee on Indian Affairs.

Sunday, January 12: Conference—General Counsel of Central Council. Interviews and conferences re: future tactics and strategy.

Monday, January 13: Appointment with Executive Director of National Congress of American Indians.

Appointment with Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Robert Vaughn.

Preparation of press release for Alaska distribution.

Tuesday, January 14: Appointment with Senator Burdick, Senator Church, and Senator Mike Gravel.

Appointments with Iloff McKay, and general counsel of the American Association on Indian Affairs.

Continued conferences, interviews, preparation of written material. Daily contact was maintained with the home offices and home to encourage support for our position and to direct ongoing efforts. The political aspects of the whole question and the tremen-

dous scope of the operations made close contact with the home offices vitally necessary.

Wednesday, January 15: Morning—1st Vice-President, Roger Lang, who was in Washington, D.C. on business relating to regional high schools in Alaska, accompanied the Central Council President to the Indians Claims Commission where the general counsel of the Central Council opposed the governments motion to dismiss the Fisheries case and the Angoon bombardment case. A decision can be expected in several months.

Afternoon—attended the hearings on the confirmation of Secretary of the Interior-designate Walter J. Hickel.

Thursday, January 16: Preparation and transmission of news release to the Tundra Times.

Morning and afternoon - Confirmation hearings. Final preparation of statement to be presented before the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. Senator Henry Jackson, Chairman of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the Senate, extracted a commitment from Secretary-designate Hickel that he would retain the land freeze and maintain the status quo pending action by the 91st Congress.

Friday, January 17: Attendance at hearings. Senator Jackson clarified and emphasized the clear and definite commitment of Secretary-designate Hickel re: land freeze. Statement presented by Central Council President at hearings before Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. Endorsement given on basis of the Secretary-designate's commitments regarding the land freeze to Senator Jackson. Unanimous vote. Conference with Central Council general counsel. Evaluation and plans for future tactics made.

Saturday, January 18: Preparation of report to Central Council delegates. Planning for upcoming hearings and next strategy.

Sunday, January 19: Travel Status.

Preparation of land claims material for the press.

### ADDENDUM

1. A copy of the statement presented by the President of the Central Council before the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee will be sent to you later.

2. Material relating to the substantive or legal aspects of our land rights will be sent to you. Familiarize yourself with these concepts. If we are to negotiate from a position of strength in the settlement of our land claims, then we must appreciate the fact that our land RIGHTS are based on decisions of the United States Supreme Court and United States National policy.

3. Senator Henry Jackson, Chairman of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, indicated that hearings on the Alaska Native Land Claims may be held in one month and that efforts will be made to have the 91st Congress resolve the matter. Word received at the time this report was drafted indicate the possibility of House Interior and Insular Affairs hearings in Anchorage at a later as yet unspecified date.

We Alaska Natives must focus our attention on the development of a rationale to support our claims for an equitable settlement as to land and money. Relatively little time is left in which to accomplish this task. Our effectiveness in bringing about favorable legislation will be determined by the time and effort that we can give to the task. Be aware of the sense of urgency that all of us feel. Most of our time will be devoted to this formidable task for the next several months. Our success NOW will be reflected later in terms of more generous amounts of land and money!

4. The recent success of the four men Alaska Federation of Natives' delegation to Washington, D.C. is significant in that it will cause us as a people to gain stature and respect. Our decision to fight for our lands and the right to a justly negotiated settlement must be unequivocal and clearly evident to everyone! We must be firm, confident negotiators.

5. The Alaska Federation of Natives, the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska, and the Alaska Native Brotherhood are one record, by virtue of Convention actions, as favoring the retention of the land freeze. The successful four man AFN delegation clearly understood this mandate and successfully negotiated on this point in Washington, D.C. Because of the stakes involved in the land claims question and because of the land rights of Eskimos, Indians, and Aluets across the state are involved, I must advise local organizations against independently conceived alternative courses which are advocated without consensus agreement and without knowledge as to what is being done or what is happening. Our strength is in organization effort. Capricious, ill-advised statements and action on the land claims question can inadvertently harm our fine relations with our northern regional organizations and the Alaska Federation of Natives.

6. It would be impossible to evaluate the monetary worth of the tremendous amount of Alaska Native land Claims publicity generated by the hearings relative to the Confirmation of Secretary Walter J. Hickel. Not only was the full attention of the entire Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee given to this vital issue, but the attention of the entire nation was also concentrated on this matter. As we anticipate a politically negotiated settlement via Congressional legislation, we must educate key congressmen and convince them as to our rights and the justice of our cause. We couldn't begin to afford to pay for the tremendous publicity that our cause received as a consequence of the hearings and our decision to concentrate on the land claims question.

/s/ JOHN BORBRIDGE, JR., PRESIDENT  
Central Council  
Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska

### Letters to the Editor

(continued from Page 2)

buy gasoline at \$1.60 per gallon? These people who need the gasoline are almost totally unemployed and depend on hunting as a means of subsistence. In the springtime, each boat uses 25 to 30 gallons of gasoline per day. Sometimes all for nothing. It is a fact that these people cannot afford \$35.00 to \$40.00 a day for gasoline.

Please advise us as to what can be done about this problem. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,  
Henry P. Silook  
Secretary, IRA Council

cc:  
BIA Juneau  
BIA Nome  
Area Director  
ANICA  
Tundra Times  
File

To be occasionally quoted is the only fame I care for. —SMITH

### Native Craft

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