

WASHINGTON POST SUPPORTS LAND CLAIMS ISSUE

The prestigious and influential Washington Post Wednesday editorially supported action on the Alaska native land claims issue in the 91st Congress.
Alaska Senator Mike Gravel

informed Tundra Times early yesterday that the lead editorial in the Post listed several priorities with which the reconvening Congress should address itself and included the land claims issue as

demanding "early attention."
The capitol city's leading newspaper said the land claims issue was one "of special importance to various groups" and ask-

ed the President and leaders of both Houses to map out a program for the months ahead "with a system of priorities for the more urgent measures."

Gravel said the editorial comment reflected a general feeling in the Capitol that the land claims issue is important nationally and should be settled with expedience.

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Tundra Times



Inupiat Paitot *People's Heritage*
Den Nena Henash *Our Land Speaks*
Unanguq Tunuktauq *The Aleuts Speak*
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Tlingit
Ut kah neek *Informing and Reporting*
HAIDA
Yaunk yawn sue
Speak the absolute truth
Fairbanks, Alaska

SUIT ATTACKS WELFARE RULES



LEADERS PONDER HUMOROUS NOTE—Faced with the wighty taks of placing AFN land settlement proposals in final bill form for presentation, the Alaska Federation of Natives Board of Directors find relief in a moment of laughter. The

native leadership was still meeting Thursday evening in Anchorage with Goldberg associates Ed Weinberg and Peter Berle to consider proposed AFN legislation.
—THOMAS RICHARDS, JR. Photograph

Calif. Legal Services Deems Rules Improper

A lawsuit filed last Tuesday in Federal Court in San Diego on behalf of a 15 year old San Diego County Indian girl and her mother and grandmother charged that California's practice of paying more than twice as much to a foster home for care of a child than the child's own family can receive in welfare payments is improper.

Kathy Ramos is one of four children in her family. The family is a recipient of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and gets for Kathy's care a monthly grant of about \$48.

Under the AFDC cost schedule Kathy would receive \$105 if she were placed in a foster home.

Kathy's mother and grandmother complain that under the welfare rules neither of them "is considered eligible for the foster care rate on behalf of [Kathy or any of her brothers and sisters] because of the degree of kinship between them; such rate is only available to strangers with whom such children might be placed as foster children."

The prospect of Kathy's being put in a foster home is not just

speculative. Because the family's ten year old station wagon has been plagued with breakdowns and has needed extensive repairs in the past year Kathy has been tardy many times and has missed several days of school.

The San Diego County Probation Department has made her a ward of the court and threatens to put her in a foster home. County probation officials are also sued in the federal district court action.

A temporary restraining order is sought to prevent the probation officials from taking any further steps which would lead to Kathy's being removed from her family and put in a foster home until the federal court can decide whether or not the California welfare rules are proper.

The California truancy laws and procedures are also attacked by the lawsuit.

The suit, filed by California Indian Legal Services (CILS) in Escondido, charges that state rules "providing for vastly different amounts of money for the care of children in families receiving AFDC as compared to the sums available to foster families for the care of AFDC children... discriminates against children living with their own families and relatives in violation of the Equal Protection clause of the Constitution."

It further alleges that this "discrimination can result in a child suffering the loss of his constitutional right to an equal educational opportunity and to a normal family environment."

Besides the constitutional claims the suit charges that the

Stop Disposal of Tanacross Lands To Be Asked

A request from the firm of Jackson and Fenton to Governor Keith Miller to freeze state disposition of lands within the Tanacross claim area, and a subsequent refusal from the Governor, will lead to another request to suspend state action in disposal of lands in the immediate Tanacross area.

The Fairbanks firm of Jackson and Fenton represents the village of Tanacross, which has been unable to receive title to lands claimed as early as 1917.

Despite claims, petitions, and native protests made by Tanacross Chief Andrew Isaac and the villagers, no final determination has ever been made on the status of their claim.

Inaction on a 1951 petition in Juneau's Bureau of Indian Affairs Realty Office and unanswered inquiries to the State and the Bureau of Land Management has typified agency approaches to the Tanacross issue.

More recently, too impatient to await a determination of the status of the claim, the state has selected over 400,000 acres of

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AFN Executive Board Makes Final Consideration on Bill

The Executive Board of the Alaska Federation of Natives, in meetings beginning Wednesday, started final consideration of its proposed land claims settlement bill.

The bill, largely authored by Association on American Indian Affairs attorney Arthur Lazarus, and reviewed by Goldberg associates Weinberg and Peter Berle, outlined five settlement proposals stemming from AFN policy decisions.

The proposals which would be enacted under the bill are described as follows:

(1) a grant to each village "... of title site and additional lands adjacent thereto for community use and expansion;"

(2) the organization of native corporations and, "in order to promote economic self-sufficiency as well as enhance the Native's present and future welfare, for a transfer of lands and rights to such corporations;"

(3) "a payment of \$500 million, and retention of an overriding royalty, as compensation for Native lands and interests in lands taken in the past..."

(4) authority for individual

natives to acquire ownership "of lands which they use and occupy for homes, businesses, fishing, hunting and trapping camps, and for reindeer husbandry;" and,

(5) protection of native subsistence biotic resources.

In line-by-line examination of

Jackson, Fenton Firm Resigns Chiefs

The firm of Jackson and Fenton announced last week their resignation as attorneys for the Tanana Chiefs Conference. The firm has represented the Interior-Indian organization since November of 1967.

In the past, the attorneys have also represented the Fairbanks Native Association and the Alaska Federation of Natives. "We will continue to represent

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six villages in the interior. Minto, Tanacross, Eagle, Tetlin, and Northway in the land claims settlement," Barry Jackson stated in the letter.

Jackson attributed his resignation to a number of factors. He said the period of his firm's most meaningful contributions to the land settlement has passed, that the cost of financing full representation of the organization has been straining the firm, and that the firm may have spread itself too thinly in representing native clients.

"As in any client-attorney relationship, our goals have been to promote the interests of our client and to carry out our responsibilities as your attorneys

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Injunction?

The Tundra Times was informed today that the Arctic Slope Native Association has under consideration a move to halt Wednesday's North Slope oil & gas lease sale.

Reportedly, ASNA may seek an injunction and challenge state action in offering leases for sale on land to which it only has tentative approval.

ASNA feels that there may be sufficient cloud on the title of lease offers, which are included in its native land claim, on which to base an injunction.