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Den Nena Henash Our Land Sneaks

Unangua Tunuktana The Alcuts Speak

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Fairbanks, Alaska

'I Want You to Be Among the First to Know...' Nixon Says

By MADELYN SHULMAN Staff Writer

In a ceremony marked only by a special taped message to the convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives the President of the United States signed the Alaska Native Claims Act of 1971 into law shortly before 1 p.m. Alaska Standard Time, Saturday, December 18, 1971.

Standing motionless, over 600 delegates to the Anchorage Convention of the AFN listened to President Nixon's brief mes-

sage:
"I appreciate this opportuappreciate this opportunity to present my greetings and best wishes to the convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives. I want you to be among the first to know that I have just signed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

"This is a milestone in Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Claims Settlement Act.

"This is a milestone in Alaska's History and in the way our government deals with natives and Indian people. It shows that institutions of government are responsive.

"As we developed this bill, Vice President Agnew and I were in close consultation with your president Don Wright. Don Wright ably and vigorously represented you in Washington. My congratulations go also to

Senator Ted Stevens, to Wally Hickel, to those of both parties who helped. Best wishes in your convention."

your convention."

The President's message came just a brief hour after delegates to the AFN Convention voted 511 to 56 to ask that the President sign the bill—which provides for a 40 million acre land settlement, almost one billion dollars in federal appropriations and proceeds from a 2 per cent.

dollars in federal appropriations and proceeds from a 2 per cent mineral royalty.

In a vote taken by regions, the Arctic Slope Native Association and the AFN Washington chapter voted No. The vote was anticlimactic. Most native delegates seemed partially pleased over the bill-partially disappointed-partially bewildered as to where to go next now that this fight is over. now that this fight is over

Upicksoun's Eloquent Protest--



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SURVIVE"-Arctic Slope Native Association President Joseph Unicksoun lighted by television lighting, delivers his speech.

attacking Alaskan natives for their lack of help

North Slope Borough Proposal-

'... Boroughs Dragged Kicking, Screaming Into Existence'

Since the founding of Alaska, the unorganized borough has included most of Alaska's

native villages and provided an obstacle to development of local self-government in these areas.

Juneau, thousands of miles away from much of the unor-ganized borough, has struggled ganized borough, has struggled to provide any type of essential services for these vast areas. During the 1960s, when many of the state's boroughs organized, native villages with their poverty and social problems were left out. To this date, most have no high school facilities, sewage, water and electricities. fittes, sewage, water and electricity is still in the process of being installed.

As an example, when the Juneau borough organized, ac-

cording to local government consultant Robert Dupere, it was structured to exclude Southwas structured to exclude South-east Indian villages. In one instance, when the acquistion of a large island with valuable timber resources was considered, it was turned down by the School Board in Juneau due to the problems of having to run a native village school.

As a rule, as Dupere testified in Barrow two weeks ago at a Local Boundary Commis-

sion hearing on the North Slope Borough Proposal "Alaska's or-ganized boroughs were dragged kicking and screaming into exi-

Most of them, according to the State Constitution, were "mandatory." The problems of local government have filed the pages of the Anchorage press for months.

for months.

Outlying residents, afraid of paying extra taxes, continually vote against expansion of the Anchorage Borough, and perpetuate duplication of services in that rapidly expanding area.

"Had we been toying with the idea of a small and trouble-

the idea of a small and trouble-some borough like most bo-roughs are," testified Eben Hop-son, Special Assistant to Gover-nor Egan, at hearings before the Local Boundary Commission, "we would not have included the whole north slope. Let me also remind the Commission that this administration is very sensi-tive to the problems of the "Bush" and has been very res-ponsive in this respect."

In an interview with Speaker-(Continued on Page 6)

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'We Inupiat Have Never Wanted Money as Such . . .' Eskimos of the Arctic Slope. had claims to the land. What

In the midst of affirmative votes and self congratulations, the Arctic Slope Native Association registered their solemn protest Friday against an Act which cuts them off from nost of the mineral rich lands of their native north slopes.

native north slopes.
"We Inupiat Eskimos have never wanted money as such—we wanted land, because out of we wanted and, occause out of the land, we would make our money. We would protect our subsistence living, and we would still have our heritage," ASNA President Joseph Upicksoun told the Alaska Federation of Natives in a speech Friday after. Natives in a speech Friday after-

noon.
"The Congress is making this settlement for just one reason-because the oil of the North Slope is owned by the Inupiat

"A couple of years ago, the oil companies wanted to get a permit for a pipeline-but the Inupiat Eskimos, the Athabas-Inupiat Eskimos, the Athabas-cans and the Chugach Eskimos

had claims to the land. What did the Tanana Chiefs and the Chugach Eskimos do when ap-proached by Atlantic Richfield? They sold their lands to the

Eligible Native Baby-

Claims Law Baby Hard to Find

TUNDRA TIMES has been searching all day for the 'YOU-NGEST NATIVE' to be eligible under the Alaska Native Claims Act. of 1971.

According to the Alaska Federation of Natives' best legal counsel, cutoff for persons eligible to be entered in the rolls of Alaska Natives is midnight, E.S.

T. on the day the bill was enacted (December 18, 1971).

ed (December 18, 1971).

Try as we have, we have found only one little native girl to claim the honors — which TUNDRA TIMES will sweetten with a \$50 Savings Bond for the child born closest to the midnight deadline (that's 7 p.m.

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