

Initiates Column . . .

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Notti we have been meeting with our attorney Ramsey Clark and the Native regional attorneys to map out our strategy for this key period.

And this is a key period, make no mistake about it. It is vitally important for the Native people that the Senate pass a fair and generous bill.

Because of this we are mobilizing all our resources for a total effort these next weeks in Washington.

We realize that some of you may be concerned about all the time we're spending here. These past months have, as we're all well aware, not been the best of times for our people.

From your calls, comments and letters, I know that the fishing season in Southeast has been disastrous. And there is urgent need for help on the home front. While our primary focus is on the long range benefit of the land claims settlement, we are also working on the implementations of programs which can benefit our peoples immediately.

We firmly believe that unless ample time is spent now in Washington our chances for a settlement which will benefit all

regions in a magnitude far beyond any programs our own Southeast resources could possibly generate, will be seriously threatened.

Justice Goldberg, our chief counsel, has put it to us very bluntly. "The best salesmen for the Native cause are the Native peoples' elected representatives."

That is why we've left our families this holiday season and come to Washington to work for all of you.

And that is why we're heartened by the many letters of support we get, your overwhelming response to the AFN petition, and your expressions of good wishes.

But let me say in closing that the best gift the leadership could get this holiday season is knowing that our peoples throughout the state are studying land rights and understanding the AFN position.

The fact is we are only as effective in Washington as you are knowledgeable. The better informed the Native people, the better chances for our success.

With that support at home, we'll try our best to do the job.



AFN OFFICIAL—Eben Hopson, Barrow, is the 2nd vice president of the AFN. He, along with other AFN officers, is in Washington on working assignment on native land claims.



CONFERRING—Rep. Willie Hensley, left, is talking with Byron Mallott, right, during land claims hearings in Washington, D.C. Hensley is the executive director of the AFN. Mallott is director of RurALCAP.

AFN President Sends Message . . .

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to the lands of Alaska would be seriously threatened and any chance for a fair settlement of our claims dangerously compromised.

Our goals were these: to secure a continuation of the land freeze pending a settlement; to retain men of stature, integrity and broad national reputation to help present our case to the Congress and the American people; to agree on an acceptable position fair to the interests of all Alaskan Natives; to mount an effective legislative campaign both in Alaska and the other 49 states; and to encourage the growth of the Alaska Federation of Natives in all its activities.

In January, John Borbridge, Willie Hensley, Eben Hopson and I flew to Washington to tell Congress of the importance of the land freeze, which by holding up the state's selection of lands had given impetus to our effort to finally settle once and for all the matter of Native rights to most of Alaska. We wanted to secure from the then Secretary of the Interior designate Walter Hickel a pledge for its retention.

With the help of friendly Senators and Chairman Jackson of the Senate Interior Committee we got that pledge—the land freeze won't be lifted until this session of Congress is through acting on our settlement.

Then in March, acting under Board authorization, we sought out the foremost lawyer in the United States, former Labor Secretary, Ambassador to the United Nations and supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg. Justice Goldberg expressed great interest and concern over our case and subsequently agreed to serve without pay as the chief counsel for the Native Peoples of Alaska.

He has been joined by his partner, former United States Attorney General Ramsey Clark, and former Senator Thomas Kuchel of California. These men in turn are aided by your regional Alaskan attorney.

We feel it is a measure of the rightness and seriousness of our cause that such men as Justice Goldberg, General Clark and Senator Kuchel are prepared to present our case to Congress and the American people and we feel that their presence is immeasurably enhancing our chances for a just settlement.

By early summer we were finally ready to hammer out an

Alaskan native position, acceptable to Indian, Eskimo and Aleut. After days of meetings we developed a proposal calling for 40 million acres of land, 500 million dollars in cash, regional corporations to manage these assets, and an overriding royalty of 2 per cent on the gross value of all the oil and gas developed from the land we are renouncing claims to.

The settlement we seek will not mean a cash payout to individual natives. While in the past this means quick money for some, in the end little is left for the future. The sad fact is, that the history of Indian claims through personal cash settlements has been an unhappy one.

Instead, we foresee through regional development corporations a chance to manage our settlement money for the benefit of all natives through, among other things, programs of education, health plans, job training, and business loans. At the same time each Native will hold shares of stock in these corporations and be able to participate in their management and enjoy the returns they bring, both financial and educational.

We chose this corporate method because we know our people can do the job. This is, first and foremost, our chance to manage our destinies freed from the heavy handed control of paternalistic but well meaning agencies. The future under our proposal will be ours to face. Our successes, and our failures, will be for the first time our responsibility.

This is the way it should be. We welcome the chance to finally meaningfully participate as equal partners in the growth of our state and Nation.

We have now taken our proposal to Congress. AFN Board members have testified many times this year before the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States. We have lobbied hard and effectively.

AFN representatives have spoken of our rights and future to opinion shaping audiences from France to Fairbanks. And, I think, we have had great, great success.

For example the 46 million member National Council of Churches recently unanimously resolved to urge their constituent groups to get behind our AFN settlement proposals and not just

any settlement scheme. This will have an extraordinary impact on the success of our legislative mission. And this is only the beginning.

I believe we have been able to educate Congress so effectively that when Governor Miller and certain business men in the state have attempted to undercut our efforts for a just settlement, they have helped our cause and hurt theirs.

The Congress of the United States today understands that the treatment of the Alaskan native has been a black mark on the history of the Nation. We believe they will not tolerate the development of an oil rich wealthy white Alaska from oil-bearing traditional native lands unless the Native peoples are compensated for their rights and permitted to share in this wealth.

Finally I can report that AFN headquarters has been growing. We now administer more programs than ever before. In addition we have opened a legislative office in Washington, D.C. to follow our land claims bill and a special public relations office in Anchorage to tell our story throughout Alaska and the United States.

In these past 12 months we have achieved the program we only dared hope to accomplish what seems so long ago. The preliminaries are now over.

Next year we have only one goal—justice for the Natives through a generous and equitable settlement of our land claims.

After two hundred years of conquest, subjugation, and domination, a new era for the Native Alaskan is dawning. Our children's life, their hopes and expectations will be greater than ours, just as our exceeded our parents.

Their future should be a great one. But it can also be empty if Congress and the State of Alaska do not do justice and redeem their pledges.

To see this done we must stand together. Our ranks must not be broken, and our faith must not be shattered by disappointments along the way.

We must keep telling our message to Congress, we must keep informing our fellow Alaskans, we must keep the effort up with all the strength and courage, and fortitude that God gives us. For we are right.

Delegation Congratulates

U.S. Senators Mike Gravel and Ted Stevens and Congressman Howard Pollock sent telegrams of congratulations this week to the Tundra Times on the special Christmas edition.

"At last, a sounding board of native opinion," wrote Gravel, "which will continue—in fact accelerate—the upward movement of Alaska's native population."

"Keep up the good work." "Congratulations on your first statewide edition."

Similarly, Stevens wrote, "Ann and I would like to take this opportunity to extend to your paper our congratulations on your special edition which is

sure to be enjoyed by all during this holiday season.

"The Tundra Times has always done an excellent job of bringing the news to the people and we wish you continuing success in the coming year."

And from Pollock: "Christmas is a time of hope and rejoicing for us in Alaska, it has special meaning this year. May your holiday be blessed and the year to come bring fruition of your hopes."

Native Movement . . .

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onek. In October of 1966, the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) was organized. The reasons for its organization are described in the preamble:

We, the Native People of Alaska, in order to secure to ourselves and our descendants the rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws of the United States, and the State of Alaska; to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Native people; to preserve the Native cultural values; to seek an equitable adjustment of Native affairs and Native claims; to seek, to secure, and to preserve our rights under existing laws of the United States; to promote the common welfare of the Natives of Alaska and to foster the continued loyalty and allegiance of the Natives of Alaska to the flag of the United States and the State of Alaska, do establish this organization. . .

Objectives of the AFN named in its constitution and bylaws are: "to promote pride on the part of the Natives of Alaska in their heritage and traditions; to preserve the customs, folklore, and art of the Native races; to promote the physical, economic, and social well-being of the Natives of Alaska; to discourage and overcome racial prejudice and the inequities which such prejudice creates; and to promote good environment, by reminding those who govern and those who are governed of their joint and mutual responsibilities."

Membership in the AFN consists of all persons of Eskimo, Indian, or Aleut blood extraction, duly enrolled in the tribal rolls of any village or area-wide association of the State of Alaska, or until such tribal rolls are established, enrolled provisionally on the temporary tribal rolls of the village or area-wide association.

Representation in the AFN's annual meeting is based upon the number of enrolled active members in such area-wide associations, or if the village is not in an association, the number of "en-

rolled active members" in the village. Each association and each village not in an association has one delegate and an additional delegate for each 100 active enrolled members beyond 50.

At annual meetings held in October, delegates elect officers and directors and transact other business. The six officers (president, first and second vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, and sergeant at arms) are elected for two-year terms and serve as voting members of the Board of directors. Other members of the board, also elected for two-year terms, are the elected single representatives of each area-wide association and three at-large members elected by villages not in associations. Governing authority over the AFN between annual meetings is vested in the Board of Directors.

Emil Notti of Anchorage has been president of the AFN since June of 1967. Upon his departure in October of this year for Washington, D.C. to press for land claims legislative action, he named Willie Hensley, a state representative from Kotzebue, as executive director of the organization. In addition to directing land claims efforts and general AFN activities, Hensley supervises the administration of programs based upon grants from the U.S. Department of Labor, the Economic Development Administration, the Office of Economic Opportunity, and private foundations. Fifteen persons are employed full time in the Anchorage office or in positions in the field.

The future of Native organizations was the subject of a forecast made by the Anchorage Daily News in late 1967. "It appears likely," the newspaper said, "that the Native organizations will outlive the land claims battle and extend their influence into other social and economic areas affecting the Alaska Native." Such extension of activities has already occurred, and continuation of Native organizations beyond the land claims battle seems assured.