

99 WORDS

On the Historic day our legislators brought forth a land claims bill, they gave new life and purpose to the Native people of Alaska. Reclaiming a small portion of the wealth that was lost, the work must now begin to develop the usage of the lands, to keep from losing them again.

Pit not brother against brother nor father against son. Let not greed divide the people, nor haste divide the land. This opportunity must not pass. There shall not be another.

Let brotherly love prevail. And when history is written let it be said, "... The Natives acted wisely.

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Operations of T-H Central Council...

(Continued from Page 36)

the proceeds given in recognition of their years of effort in the land claims.

The Central Council executive committee met with Dr. Johnson, director of Indian Health Services in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington, D.C., and concluded plans to undertake a program, in cooperation with the Indian Health Service, to provide additional services and facilities for the Tlingit and Haida special (elderly) people in the communities where they now live. The long-range program for the Tlingit and Haida elderly is now at the planning stage—but the project is being handled on a priority basis.

EDUCATION COORDINATOR CONTRACT WITH BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

A new contract providing educational counseling services was signed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, effective October 1, 1971. The new \$34,000 contract provides for the services of an education coordinator and a secretary. This contract provides a basis for expanded educational services to the Natives of southeast Alaska. When the educational counselor function was under the Bureau of Indian Affairs, they were limited in what they could do. However, with the Central Council contracting for, and performing this function, the Council is able to tie together many other education programs not under the Bureau of Indian Affairs, such as the Alaska students in higher education services program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Mr. Chris McNeil, who has been serving as educational counselor under the old contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, will be the new education coordinator. The education coordinator will operate under the Native director of the southeast agency, also a Central Council employee. The contract runs through June 30, 1972.

We are presently administering several programs to aid Indian students; none of these involve the use of Tlingit and

Haida claims settlement monies.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs' Grant-in-Aid program, administered by the coordinator, provides needy Indian students with financial aid in pursuing an education program on a full-time basis, leading to a four year bachelor's degree, from an accredited institution of higher education (college or university). The student may attend a junior college if the credits are transferable to an accredited four year institution. Mr. McNeil said, "Although the Grant-in-Aid program is based on need, Mr. McNeil emphasized that 'the prospective student should not try to judge his own eligibility. But should contact this office as there are a number of factors that enter into the determination of an individual's eligibility.' Mr. McNeil may be contacted at the federal building at Juneau, Room 223, or by calling 586-7132 or 586-7134 in Juneau, or by writing to:

Mr. Chris McNeil
Education Coordinator
Tlingit and Haida Central Council
P.O. Box 1587
Juneau, Alaska 99801

TLINGIT AND HAIDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OK'S GUARANTEED LOAN AGREEMENT OF AFN

The Central Council executive committee meeting in Juneau on November 3rd and 4th, by a unanimous roll call vote, passed a motion allowing Central Council President John Borbridge, to enter a guaranteed loan agreement with the Alaska Federation of Natives. The \$100,000 loan is the second guaranteed loan by the Tlingit and Haida to the Alaska Federation of Natives in its statewide efforts to resolve the Native land rights. Mr. Borbridge said, "The intent of the guaranteed loan is to insure that there are enough funds available to support an unbroken effort in the final phases of the land claims bill. When the chips are down, we wanted to be there and not found wanting when the need was most pressing. We are proud to be responsible for enabling the AFN effort to continue."

SOUTHEAST AGENCY CONTRACT

In the spring of 1971 the Tlingit and Haida Central Council entered into an agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the administration of the bureau programs in southeast Alaska. The Tlingit and Haida Central Council hired Mr. Joseph G. Wilson who reported on duty April 19, 1971 as the Native Agency Director replacing the traditional bureau superintendent. The on-going programs and service provided through this agency are social service, Indian housing improvement, and development, employment assistance, adult vocational training, credit investment assistance, aid to tribal government and education. An area from Yakutat to Ketchikan is served. There are 17 communities with a Native population of approximately 9,500.

The intent of entering into such an agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs besides interest in self-determination was to avoid duplication since the Tlingit and Haida Central Council and the Bureau of Indian Affairs were both involved in social and economic development in Southeast Alaska. The programming and budgeting of the agency programs will be

closely coordinated with the Central Council efforts in carrying out the six-point plan adopted by the Tlingit and Haida Central Council and further detailed in the Wolf report.

The Executive Committee of the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska must be commended for taking the initiative to enter into the contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the take-over of the southeast agency. The goal set forth by the Tlingit and Haida delegates in convention action is clear. As the Tlingit and Haida successfully carry out the terms of the southeast agency contract to the benefit of the Native people of southeast Alaska, it will be a milestone in not only the history of the Tlingit and Haida peoples, but, in fact, it will be significant to all of the Native or Indian people of our state and nation in their advancement toward self-determination.

BOOKS "RECAST" TO REFLECT EXPANSION OF CENTRAL COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Mr. George See, Central Council planner and accountant recently completed the recasting of the Central Council's books and the revising of the accounting system in preparation for the Council's expanding operation. According to Mr. See, the Central Council, in the future sees itself more deeply involved in working with the communities, and in obtaining new contracts and grants to expand and improve its services to our Tlingit and Haida people. The accounting records have now been set up to meet this anticipated growth. Accountability, program cost controls, and internal controls are the keystones to a successful business operation. During the short period of time these controls have been in operation, significant cost savings have been realized. The accounting systems and procedures will be available to the president, the cumulative expenditures and the amount of monies available in each contract and/or grant in each of the various departments. This information will be available on a monthly basis. An audit of the accounting records will be performed by an external auditor, twice a year to insure the safeguarding of the financial resources of our people. With the impending passage of the land claims legislation, it is reasonable to expect that services and activities of the Central Council will realize a proportionate expansion. Therefore, Mr. See has designed the accounting system so that it can be immediately converted to a computerized format.

By an act of Congress in 1965, the United States recognized the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska, as the official governing body for the Tlingit and Haida Indians. The Council has been operating a fully staffed office in Juneau and offices in 19 member communities stretching from San Francisco to Anchorage, solely on the proceeds realized from the investment of its \$7.2 million judgment award, and its various grants and contracts with government agencies. The original judgment monies remain intact.

The Central Council's objective in its efforts to expand its contract and services is the social material and cultural betterment of our Tlingit and Haida people. In its future planning for grants, services and investments, the Council will continue to focus its efforts on those areas where real needs exist and true progress can be realized.

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