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What Villagers Need to Know About Land Claims

With the passage of the Alaska Native Land Claims Bill, there are many things that Native villagers need to know. The Rural Alaska Community Action Program, in cooperation with the Alaska Federation of Natives and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, has prepared a list of questions

which each village in rural Alaska will need to answer if they are to participate fully in the land claims. Most villages will

need assistance in answering these questions and that help will be provided by the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Bu-

reau of Indian Affairs, your regional Native Association and RurAL CAP. If you need assistance, you should write these agencies.

Land Issues Facing Natives

- Will Natives be allowed surface and subsurface rights?
- Will all Natives share in land provisions, or will it be limited to only the village "users" of the land?
- How will your land rights be protected after legislation is passed?
- How much land will your village be entitled to after the settlement?
- Which lands can you select from?
- How much land will your regional allocation be entitled to after the settlement?
- How many acres are available for your village and region to select from?
- What lands does your village presently use that it will want to select?
- What lands within your region and around your village contain potentially valuable resources?
- Must abandoned or historically important sites be established (grave yards, fishing sites, exhausted mines)?
- Are there any legal existing claims for lands prior to Natives selection?
- Mining claims throughout Alaska number in the thousands, are you aware of all past mining activity within lands that you desire for selection?
- What existing claims or land rights will be given up by this bill?
- How are the Indian Reserves to be treated?
- Who will settle land disputes between villages when townships to be selected are more than one village allowable limits?
- How long will villages and regional native Assoc. have to select their individual land?
- When will title be granted to the individual villages and regional Native Assoc. so that Natives can start economic activity?
- How will individuals receive title to land?
- What if there isn't sufficient available amounts of open land for a village to select?
- What are provisions for taxes on the lands granted to Natives?
- When will Natives be expected to pay taxes on their land holdings?
- Will a pending Indian Allotment be given final approval or will it be revoked in light of claims legislation?
- Can a Native acquire land outside of his village allocation under any circumstances?
- Will Natives be allowed any land for subsistence campsites—fishcamps?
- What will the relationship be between PHS and BIA to the Natives after the settlement?
- How will the settlement affect the State's activities in relation to Natives?

Native Corporations

VILLAGE CORPORATION:

- Must villages incorporate to share in the land claims settlement?
- What number of Natives are required to incorporate?
- What is the process used to incorporate?
- How would a Native corporation relate with village or city government?
- Will the corporation have powers to invest their monies?
- Would the corporation be non-profit or business oriented?
- Who is eligible to become a member of the corporation?
- Will it have title to land, other than that which belong to the members?
- Will it have a budget of its own?
- What guide lines might the corporation have in land and

money distributions?

- Who would it contact for assistance?
- Will the corporation officers be paid? If so, by whom?
- Are there training programs for its officers?
- What is its relationship with regional corporations and other larger corporations?

REGIONAL CORPORATION:

- What are these corporations' functions?
- Who are its members?
- Is the village corporation represented in this?
- What determines their boundaries?
- Does this corporation deal directly with the village?
- What programs does it offer?
- Who funds this corporation?
- How large is a regional cor-

poration?

- Is it non-profit or business oriented?
- What is its relationship with a state-wide corporation and/or the Alaska Federation of Natives?

NATIVE COMMISSION:

- What is it?
- What are its functions?
- Who are its members?
- What is the function of the Alaska Federation of Natives?
- Are there any corporations for urban Natives? If so, what does it do?
- Are there any other corporations in the Native movement? If so, who are they?

FINANCES:

- How will the Village Councils participate in the land claims fund?
- How much money will the Native villages obtain—if any?
- What villages will be selected to handle the money?
- What funds will be allocated to each regional corporation?
- Who will determine how the money is spent?
- When will the money be obtained by the regional corporations, villages and individual Natives?
- What is an investment plan and will a village need one?
- What is "revenue sharing"?
- Will the individual Natives receive cash after the bill becomes law? If not, how will it benefit?
- How long will it take for the individual to benefit?

Negotiated Raises Before Aug. 14 OK

The Senate has passed and sent to the House amendments to the Economic Stabilization Act of 1970.

There are two provisions in this legislation that are of special importance to Alaskans. First, Alaskan workers would receive pay raises that were negotiated prior to the August 14th wage freeze.

This is especially important to Alaskans because the wage freeze occurred during the peak employment season and some Alaskans did not receive increases that were due.

Secondly, the legislation makes it possible for federal employees to receive a pay raise during the first pay period of 1972.

Mike Represents Stevens

Senator Stevens once again has a Central District representative in the Interior of Alaska.

Representing the Senator, on a part time basis, is Mrs. Kathleen (Mike) Dalton. She will be available during the morning hours Monday through Friday,

or she will be in the office by appointment at any other time.

The Senator's office is in the Federal Building in Fairbanks. The telephone number is 452-5264 and is listed in the new Fairbanks directories now being distributed.

Could This Be First of Many?

Nobody knows yet what the agenda is, but Alaska State Bank is apparently jumping the guns on other financial leaders on wooing native leaders. (Remember the 962 million dollars).

On Friday, in the midst of the AFN Convention in Anchorage, Alaska State is inviting 40

top native leaders to lunch—at the Upper One in the International Airport Private Dining Room in Anchorage.

Whatever the outcome on the luncheon, TUNDRA TIMES is sure it will only be the first of many.

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