

# TUNDRA TIMES DONATES WEEKLY NEWS PAGE TO ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES



AFN TOP ECHELON—The Alaska Federation of Natives officials and their lawyers are sitting down to deliberate on the AFN land bill now being reviewed before the House Interior Committee. Although caught in a lighter moment

during the proceedings, the officers have been subjected to exhaustive work. The strain is telling but the work goes on—on things like public relations on the native effort for a fair settlement. —THOMAS RICHARDS, JR. Photograph

## Goldberg's Appearance on TV Seen by Millions of Viewers

Millions of television viewers throughout the United States heard the story of the Alaska Native Land Claims when Arthur Goldberg appeared on the top rated NBC Today Show on October 17.

Host Hugh Downs started the interview by mentioning that the next day was the 102nd anniversary of the purchase of Alaska by the United States from Russia.

"Under the terms of the purchase," Downs said, "the land itself was not purchased, but the right to tax and govern: The legal right. In accordance with federal policy and the Supreme Court ruling, title to the land remained with the original occupants: Indians and Eskimos."

Television viewers heard Downs explain further how today 60,000 Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts are fighting expropriation of their lands by the State. "Why is there any dispute?" Downs asked Goldberg.

"There should not be any dispute," countered Goldberg. "The Natives legally and morally own most of Alaska, and I'm glad that on Alaska Day the American people should be somewhat aroused about it because we never have done justice to the Indians in general and now we have a long overdue opportunity to do justice here."

Because Goldberg is representing the Natives as a public service, he explained, he felt free

to talk emphatically about the subject. "I might not if I had any other interest," he added.

Goldberg then went on to explain the Statehood Act and the Organic Act, both which specifically reserve the Native rights to their land.

Downs and Goldberg also touched on oil and mineral rights, the offer of the Federal Government, and the need for ample land for the native because of subsistence hunting and fishing and why Alaska now has the land freeze.

In closing the interview, Downs wished Ambassador Goldberg, "Good work on behalf of the people whom Alaska originally belonged to and to whom much of it still belongs."

## Activities of AFN to Appear Each Week

Beginning with this issue of the Tundra Times and each week thereafter you'll find on this page news from the Native delegation working in Washington, D.C., the status of the Land Claims Bill, a list of outside newspapers which have printed news stories on Alaska's natives and their problems, and general information

and news of Alaska Federation of Natives activities throughout the state.

The space for these items has generously been provided as a public service by the Tundra Times in order for all of Alaska Natives to become better informed on the work of AFN.

## Union Members Ask Land Claims Solution

Two important labor unions in Alaska last week expressed their desire for prompt and equitable settlement to the native land claims and they were: Alaska State Federation of Labor, Dwayne Carlson, president; and Alaska Teamsters, Jesse L. Carr, secretary-treasurer, Local 959 IBT.

The Federation of Labor was joined by Central Labor Councils of Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka.

Dwayne Carlson said that the group "strongly support a speedy legislative resolution of the native land claims issue."

"While we take no hard stand," Carlson stated, "on the amount of land or money to be awarded, we recognize that for the settlement to be a meaningful the amount of land must be sufficient to allow subsistence type of living for those Natives who desire to do so."

"Whatever cash settlement is reached, we strongly support the corporate structure, with distribution of funds to the Village Corporations proportionate to village population."

"We firmly believe that the Alaska Native should determine the priority and manner of the development of his community and that he is capable of doing so, providing the funds are not dissipated through cash disbursement to individuals."

Carlson said, however, that the organized labor is generally opposed to any overriding royalty or revenue sharing that might affect state revenue.

"We feel," Carlson continued, "that the Native Claims issue must be resolved before the State can intelligently determine how all Alaskans can share in the benefits to be derived from the \$900 million wind-fall."

"If the Natives do not receive

a large enough settlement to develop their own areas, then we believe the State has a moral obligation to spend whatever proportion of the bonus money that is necessary to give these people at least acceptable minimum living conditions and educational opportunities and facilities equal to those in metropolitan areas."

"We have the utmost faith in the ability of the legislative process to arrive at a fair and equitable solution to this urgent problem and we urge all Alaskans to join with us in asking Congress to resolve this problem as soon as possible."

Jesse L. Carr said in a telegram to congressional members that the Alaska Teamsters urge Congress to acknowledge the federal obligation to Alaska's native people by enacting a fair and equitable settlement of the land claims.

He said the provisions of the bills now being reviewed are too many and varied to allow full comment at this time.

"Whatever legislation Congress," Carr stated, "approves must seek the following goals:

"1. To be equitable to the native people and simultaneously fair to all Alaskans."

"2. To bring all Alaskans closer together in harmony without setting any group above or against another."

"3. To provide a total solution for the land claims problem without residual hangover or hangup."

"Further delay or any failure of Congress to act would prove very harmful to the State of Alaska," concluded Carr. "Further, it would work against the future welfare and well being of Alaska native people. Alaska Teamsters urge your favorable action as quickly as full consideration permits."

## An Urgent Request—

## AFN Sends Out Petitions to Be Filled Out by Villagers

Petitions requesting endorsement of Alaska Federation of Natives position in the land

## Calif. Indians Help on Line

The United States Congress and the Department of the Interior were urged this week by the Board of Trustees of the California Indian Legal Services to respect the land rights of the Alaskan Natives by maintaining the freeze on Alaskan land until final settlement of the Alaska Native Claims is reached.

This board is composed of a majority of Indian members which represent a large portion of California Indian reservations and rancherias also recommended the adoption of the Alaska Native Claims settlement bill which was submitted by the Alaska Federation of Natives.

claims settlement were mailed this week to all village councils by the AFN.

James Thomas, Public Relations Director of the Alaska Federation of Natives, requests that each village secure as many signatures as possible and return the completed petitions to him.

Copies then will be forwarded to Senators Stevens and Gravel,

Representative Pollock as well as members of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

A separate petition is also being circulated by the AFN in the metropolitan areas throughout the state. Return the petitions to James Thomas, Office of Public Relations, Alaska Federation of Natives, 1675 C Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

## Impressive—

## Coverage on Claims

In the past few weeks the newspapers listed below have printed stories about Alaska's native plight, or fight, for a settlement of their claims. They are as follows: The Desert News, Salt Lake City, Utah; Columbus Evening Dispatch, Columbus, Ohio;

The Washington Post, Washington, D.C.; The Chicago Sun

Times, Chicago, Illinois; The Tribune, Scranton, Pennsylvania; The Herald, Everett, Washington; The Californian, Bakersfield, California; The Times-Democrat, Davenport, Iowa;

The Herald, Anderson, Indiana; The Ledger, Columbus, Georgia; The Sun Democrat, Paducah, Kentucky; and the Christian Science Monitor.



AFN CHIEF COUNSEL—Justice Arthur J. Goldberg is chief lawyer of the native people.

## Phone Busy on Calls for Book

The switchboard was aglow for hours after Ambassador Arthur Goldberg appeared on the Today Show. The calls of request for the booklet, "Deadline for Justice" which is a simple and popular account of the history of the legal and moral basis for the Alaska Native Land Claims.

Published by the Association of American Indian Affairs, it was offered free to the network show's viewers and within a few days because of the thousands of requests, the supply of the booklet was depleted.

According to the public relations department of the AFN, a new supply is being printed and will be available soon to Alaskans upon request.