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# Tundra Times

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Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak

Vol. 7, No. 260

Wednesday May 20, 1970

Fairbanks, Alaska



Tlingit  
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting  
HAIDA  
Yaunk yawn sue  
Speak the absolute truth

## CLAIMS BILL DISAPPOINTING



**SALMON FOR FREEZING**—Employees of the Kuskokwim Fishermen's Cooperative, headquartered at Bethel, prepare salmon for freezing. During the 1969 season, the co-op paid over \$50,000 in wages and over \$100,000 to local

fishermen. Profits are expected to increase this year with delivery of a \$600,000 freezer barge, purchased by the co-op through Economic Development Administration financing.

### Strong General Note Of Dissatisfaction On Latest Claims Bill

By SUSAN TAYLOR  
Staff Writer

Native leaders sounded a strong note of disappointment to the latest version of the Alaska land claims bill agreed upon by the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Their complaints centered on the land provisions which after several changes in the original draft are still considered to be "inadequate."

The inadequacy of the land provisions, first vice-president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, John Borbridge, said will undoubtedly have a major impact on the future of the Alaska natives, and "their inadequacy during these enlightened times is an affront to the people of the land whose dependence upon and use of the land is a continuous thing and not a thing of the past."

As unofficially reported out of the committee, the bill provides for 4.5 million acres of land in fee simple, including the mineral rights, plus the surface rights to 3.5 million acres.

Other major provisions provide a \$500 million cash compensation and a 2 per cent share in oil and gas revenues until the amount of \$500 million is reached.

Concerning land grants, the Alaska Federation of Natives had requested a total 8 million acres in fee simple, 2 million for tim-

ber selection and one million for mineral lands.

However, several changes were made in the original draft of the bill.

Natives living north of the Arctic Circle are to receive an additional 500,000 acres— an amount which according to Joe Upicksoun is still not sufficient for the subsistence economy of much of the North Slope. Upicksoun is president of the Arctic Slope Native Association.

The Senators cannot seem to visualize or even understand the concept of an earth that does not yield what is planted in it but rather is valuable for its caribou and fish, he stressed. (Refer to article on editorial page for further details.)

The 4,000 natives represented by the association are asking for surface rights to 56 million acres—the amount now claimed by them on the basis of use and occupancy.

The committee also changed the formula for allocating land to

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### CEDC -- Its Role with Bush Co-ops

Special to the Tundra Times

"Less than two years ago many Seattle and Alaska dealers just shuddered when you talked about doing business in the villages. Now most of them get right down to discussing terms."

The speaker was Joe Smith, director of Community Enterprise Development Corporation (CEDC). Headquartered in Anchorage, CEDC is a private, non-profit corporation that provides technical and financial assistance to cooperatives and other community-owned businesses in rural Alaska.

"A lot of urban businessmen didn't realize the role villages play in the economic picture of the state," Smith said.

"When individuals with low incomes combine, their buying power is often surprising. The reality of several thousand dollars worth of business a year convinces urban outlets that the villages have a real financial impact too."

The director emphasized that CEDC is "not a give-away program or cover for another welfare organization."

"Most villages have a very clear idea of what they can do to develop their area. What they do not have are the contacts necessary to obtain seed capital, and the basic knowledge of accepted business practices—that is where CEDC comes in."

The Corporation provides financial assistance through its own grant and loan fund, and also helps community-owned businesses to contact other funding agencies.

CEDC provides technical assistance by helping development groups evaluate the feasibility of their programs, assists in the initial operation of the business,

and provides training for managers and bookkeepers.

Smith pointed out that the cooperatives and businesses

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### AFN PR Gets Receptive Audience

Efforts to advance the Alaska Native Land Rights Issue by appealing to the "National Conscience" reached an interested and receptive audience with a presentation by the Alaska Federation of Natives First Vice President, John Borbridge, Jr., at the inter-cultural forum at Columbia University in New York City April 30.

More than 150 students and adults indicated their sympathy for the cause, and their concern, that justice be done to the Alaska Natives.

A specific effort in terms of a letter writing campaign was promised by a number of listeners. This was one of the most knowledgeable audiences before which Mr. Borbridge has appeared.

Mr. Peter Berle, who is an attorney with Justice Goldberg's firm, also spoke on the Native

Land Claims Panel, which was moderated by Mr. William Byler Executive Director of the Association on American Indian Affairs.

On Tuesday, May 5, former Attorney General and A.F.N.

First Vice President also accepted an invitation to speak to the group on the subject of Native Land Rights.

One of the high points of the

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### AFN Lines Up \$225,000 Loan From Yakima Indian Nation

The Alaska Federation of Natives is slated to receive a \$225,000 loan if a decision made by the Yakima Indian Nation of Washington State is approved by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel.

The Yakimas voted unanimously May 12 to make the loan to the AFN following an appearance by the organization's execu-

tive director, Eben Hopson, and board member Don Wright.

Six days later the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, which represents over 150,000 Indians from southern states, endorsed the action of the Yakima Tribes and recommended to the Department of the Interior that the loan be approved without delay.

Hopson, speaking from his Anchorage office, said this week that if the loan is approved by the Secretary it will come to the AFN "with no strings attached."

He speculated that two weeks would be the minimum time within which the Department of the Interior would act on the matter.

The money will be used, the executive director continued, for the day-to-day operations of the Alaska Native organization and for maintaining a lobby in Washington D.C.

Hopson explained that the AFN would like to maintain at least a three-man lobby in Washington until a final land claims settlement is made in Congress.

It is expected that the bill will be officially reported out of the Senate Committee on

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### BIA's Home Purchase Program

Natives who have received either occupational training or direct employment through the Employment Assistance Branch of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, might be able to afford a new home under the BIA's Home Purchase Program.

The program will grant up to \$2,000 or 10 per cent of the cost

of the home for use as a down-payment.

The person himself must be able to make the monthly payments.

In explaining the program, two BIA representatives stressed that the grant is made with no strings attached.

However, as stated previously,

the main requirement is that the native must have received training or employment through the Employment Assistance Branch of the BIA.

This requirement was made, the spokesman said, to insure a certain amount of job stability and thus an applicant's ability

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