

private investment, foster surveys and studies for programs of improvement and development, develop, establish, and operate various business enterprises, invest in business enterprises, make long-term, low-interest loans to Natives in Alaska or Native groups, make grants to the Native groups for publicly sponsored projects which would benefit the entire group and lease on a competitive basis the minerals held in trust by the Corporation. In the case of mineral receipts, the Corporation would have available to it one-half of the total receipts and would distribute the other half to the Native groups having title to the surface lands in which the minerals were developed. The Corporation would not be a Federal instrumentality for any purpose. The Corporation must maintain complete and accurate books and records and would be generally supervised by the Alaska Native Commission established by this proposal.

12. The proposal provides for the establishment by the Secretary of a roster of Native groups and a roll of Natives and their descendants eligible to vote in any election held pursuant to this proposal.

13. The proposal would authorize the Secretary to permit, in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws and with the consent of the administering agency, Natives of Alaska to use public lands in Alaska for 50 years or less exclusively for hunting, fishing, trapping, and berry-picking. In the case of any lands that are patented or leased pursuant to the Alaska Statehood Act or any other public land laws such lands shall contain a reservation to the United States of the right to issue such permit for nonexclusive hunting, fishing, trapping, and berry-picking purposes for up to 50 years from the date of enactment of this proposal.

14. The proposal would grant to the Natives a sum of money which would be established in one of two ways: (1) it could be computed on the basis of \$3,000 for each native in a Native group, except that, in the case of any Tlingit and Haida Natives in the group, their share of the money judgment would be deducted, or (2) the payment would be a lump sum not to exceed \$180 million, whichever is the lesser. The payments would be made into a special account in the Treasury for the benefit of the Native groups and the \$180 million is the maximum amount of the payment. Each year the Secretary would apportion 90 percent of the payment in the account to the Native groups to be used by them in any manner that is authorized by their governing body and is approved by the Alaska Native Commission. The remaining sum in the account would be distributed to the Corporation. These payments would be made over a 5-year period beginning in fiscal year 1971.

15. The proposal would authorize the establishment of an Alaska Native Commission composed of 3 members appointed by the President and the majority of whom shall be residents of Alaska for one year or more preceding appointment. The Commission shall be located within the Department of the Interior and shall have duties as established by this proposal and other duties the Secretary may delegate.

16. The proposal provides for appropriations to carry out the provisions of this legislation.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., June 15, 1967.

Hon. JOHN W. McCORMACK,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed herewith is a draft of a proposed bill "To settle the land claims of Alaska Natives, and for other purposes."

We recommend that the proposed bill be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration, and we recommend that it be enacted.

The problem of Native land claims in Alaska has been a troublesome one for many decades.

(1) The Act of May 17, 1884 (23 Stat. 24), providing a civil government for the Territory of Alaska, declared that the Natives "shall not be disturbed in the possession of any lands actually in their use and occupation or now claimed by them, but the terms and conditions under which such persons may acquire title to such lands is reserved for future legislation by Congress." A similar provision is contained in the Act of June 6, 1900 (31 Stat. 321), which provided a civil government for Alaska.