

to have that responsibility reside with the Secretary rather than the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The eloquence of presentation before the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee by the native leaders was a tribute to the dynamic and capable new leadership which is emerging within the entire native community in Alaska. Every Alaskan should be proud of the performance of these dedicated individuals at this the first hearing of its kind ever held in Washington on the resolution of the Alaska native land claims problem.

Mr. POLLOCK. Mr. Chairman, just briefly, I would introduce several of the members who are here and would ask that they just stand up briefly and then would hope that the Governor would have an opportunity to testify firsthand.

Mr. Chairman, without further ado, I am going to relinquish my time and ask that the witnesses now be heard. I don't see Senator Gruening. I wonder if we could now have the Governor make his statement.

Mr. HALEY. We also have an executive communication which, without objection, will be made a part of the record along with the bills.

May the Chair first state that, coming from the most southern part of the United States, I welcome you people from the most northern part of the United States and say to you that you have a very fine Representative, Mr. Pollock, who is a member of our committee and is doing a good job here for you. About the only trouble is, or about the only fault I could find is, that he comes from the other side of the aisle, so to speak, and belongs to another party which I will not mention; but if you must send Republicans down here, I suppose Mr. Pollock is about as good as you will be able to find in Alaska.

Mr. POLLOCK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I notice Senator Gruening just came in.

Mr. McCLURE. Mr. Chairman, would the gentleman yield?

Mr. HALEY. I yield.

Mr. McCLURE. I would just like to add to what the chairman has said. The very fact that these hearings are being held is a mark of the vigor and determination with which our colleague, the gentleman from Alaska, Mr. Pollock, has approached this problem and as the chairman well knows, he has been very diligent in pursuing this matter and getting it to the hearing stage here. I think that the people from Alaska should know of the amount of work that he has done and the dedication he has had in getting a hearing and having you people appear before this committee. I think he is to be very highly commended for the approach that he has made and the kind of work that he has done for the people that he represents.

Mr. POLLOCK. I thank the gentleman from Idaho, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HALEY. I agree with the gentleman from Idaho and as has been stated, I am glad to have these hearings this morning to get the gentleman from Alaska off my back.

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Chairman, as one representing neither those farthest north nor farthest south, but the exact center of the United States, which now is in my district since Alaska came into the Union, I want to welcome you folks from the northern country and would join in what my colleagues have said regarding the work Howard has been doing for you.

Mr. POLLOCK. I thank the gentleman.

Senator Gruening is in, Mr. Chairman.