

There is no revenue for Federal or State programs to benefit the same natives who are the point of the land freeze.

The development of Alaska is severely restricted by this measure. This is a concern for all Americans.

The land mass of Alaska represents the farthest thrust of the United States of America out across the Pacific into Asia and upward toward the pole at the crossroad of the Northern Hemisphere. There is no one to deny its significance in the strategy of geography.

Further, the freeze halts the development of mineral production which is necessary to maintain the economic leadership of the Western World.

It is vital to all of us that the economics of Alaska be placed on a firm and solid basis.

The State of Alaska has assumed its responsibility toward the natives of Alaska in this way.

First, my administration organized a task force to come up with a proposal of settlement of the Alaska native claims.

This task force was composed of native leaders, their attorneys, Representatives of the State administration, and a representative of the Department of the Interior.

The objective of the task force was a bill which would reconcile the interests of the Department of the Interior, the State of Alaska, and the natives of Alaska.

This bill was introduced in the Senate as S. 2906 and in the House of Representatives as H.R. 15049.

Second, my administration sponsored and secured passage at the last session of the State legislature of an Alaska native claims State settlement act. It provides for the grant of \$50 million to the natives of Alaska if the present land freeze imposed by the Department of the Interior is lifted before the 10th of October of this year.

The Congress of the United States should now exercise its responsibility toward the natives of Alaska. The State of Alaska, as the sovereign State which represents the natives of Alaska and all other Alaskans, endorses this main basis of settlement:

First, a minimum monetary settlement in the sum of \$500 million, with the condition that at least half of that sum be used for capital investment in the village regions.

Second, grants of land in fee simple to each native group for its historic village site and whatever land contiguous to that village site which may be necessary for the future economic and social development of the community.

Third, nonexclusive aboriginal rights of natives for hunting and fishing on lands in Alaska owned by the United States.

Fourth, an outright grant of immediate benefits to the Alaskan natives without the restrictive trusteeship of the Department of the Interior.

Let me explain to you in more detail several of the principles of the land settlement which I have just outlined for you.

With respect to the monetary settlement of \$500 million, I would like to point out that the people of the State of Alaska alone have offered \$50 million for this settlement. I think it is a conservative statement to say that the rest of the United States, and this is a settlement