

Governor HICKEL. I think the claim would have been there regardless of statehood.

Mr. TUNNEY. Claim against the citizens of the United States irrespective of whether we granted statehood?

Governor HICKEL. I think so.

Mr. TUNNEY. Could you explain that a little further? On what basis?

Governor HICKEL. It would not make any difference from the claim standpoint whether it was a State or territory, as far as their claims to compensation are concerned.

Mr. TUNNEY. I am not clear on that point myself. At the time that Alaska came into the Union and it was testified before the House and Senate Interior Committees requesting admission, was it understood that within 10 years of admission that there was going to be a claim made against the United States for \$500 million?

Governor HICKEL. I think the statehood bill very clearly pointed out, and in my testimony, that this thing was not settled. It had to be settled in the courts or by Congress.

I think it pointed that out.

Mr. TUNNEY. Was there any mention made at that time?

Governor HICKEL. Of the amount of money?

Mr. TUNNEY. Yes.

Governor HICKEL. No.

Mr. TUNNEY. The amount of money that was to be requested to settle the Indian claims.

Governor HICKEL. No, I do not think there was any mention of the amount of money.

Mr. TUNNEY. It is my understanding, and I do not have the figures, that Alaska, of all the States in the Union receives the largest amount of money per capita from the Federal Government in return to the citizens.

I believe it is over \$1,000 a citizen. I cannot recall exactly, but it is substantially larger per capita than any other State's.

What I would like to understand on this point is, if we give \$500 million to the natives of Alaska as just recompense for the land that was taken by the Soviet Union and sold to the United States how much would this mean per capita to the natives.

Governor HICKEL. Estimated 80,000 natives and half a billion dollars, I would have to figure it out. It would be about \$600. Figure it out.

Mr. TUNNEY. About \$6,000 per Indian.

Governor HICKEL. Yes, roughly.

Mr. TUNNEY. Let me ask you this: The Indians of California—I come from the State of California—were recently awarded about \$29 million for the lands that were taken from them by the white man when he came to California. Inasmuch as the Indians were the original settlers of California, and inasmuch as there was nobody contending or competing for that land, we can assume that the entire State of California at one time belonged to the Indians, or at least in some way they had hunting or fishing rights as tribes to the entire State.

The settlement was \$29 million for the entire State. Do you feel that \$29 million for land claims of the Indians in California stacks