

to the Congress. So if you will be governed by that and try to be back here at 2 o'clock, we will continue the hearings.

The committee stands in recess.

(Whereupon, at 11:45 a.m., the committee was recessed to reconvene at 2 o'clock, the same day.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

Mr. HALEY. The committee will be in order.

STATEMENT OF CLIFF GROH, ATTORNEY, REPRESENTING THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

Mr. GROH. Mr. Chairman, my name is Clifford Groh. I am an attorney for the Alaska Federation of Natives. I would request that my statement be placed in the record. I will not read it. I will only make this comment in connection with a question that some of the committee members have raised.

It is our position that we presently have Indian title to all of the land in Alaska. I recognize that one can take the position that even if we have title that Indian title must be recognized by Congress. Since we believe that we do have Indian title to all of Alaska, a legislative settlement of this particular problem is, hopefully, the only solution. The extended litigation that would go on otherwise we don't believe would be of any benefit to anyone. I have no other comment, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HALEY. Without objection, the statement will be made a part of the record at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF CLIFFORD J. GROH, ATTORNEY, ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

Mr. Chairman, my name is Clifford J. Groh. I have practiced law in Anchorage for 16 years and am a partner in the firm of McCutcheon, Groh, & Benkert. I was formerly an assistant U.S. attorney and have served on the Anchorage City Council for 4 years, the Anchorage Borough Assembly for 3 years, and the Anchorage School Board for 4 years. I am also a past president of the Alaska Bar Association.

Since January 1966 I have been active in representing various native groups. Our firm now represents the following native associations and villages:

- (1) Native village of Tyonek.
- (2) Native village of Eklutna.
- (3) Kenai Native Association.
- (4) Seward Peninsula Native Association (Nome).
- (5) Bristol Bay Native Association (Dillingham).
- (6) Village Council President's Association (Bethel).
- (7) Chugach Native Association (Cordova).
- (8) Copper River Native Association.
- (9) Alaska Peninsula Native Association.
- (10) St. Lawrence Island eskimos.
- (11) Village of Unalakleet.

I have attended and participated in all of the statewide meetings of the Alaska Federation of Natives and all of the Governor's land claims task force meetings.

The native people have inhabited Alaska, as one court stated, "From time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." The first northern Europeans arrived in 1741, and from then until 1867, treated Alaska as a hunting ground for valuable furs. The Russians never attempted to exercise any dominion over 99 percent of Alaska's 365 million acres. The native people were not conquered and most of them never knew that the Russians purported to "own" Alaska and subsequently "sell" it to someone else.