

We propose to avoid both extremes. (The Task Force proposals are largely contained in Chapter —, S.L.A. 1968.) Alaska is a little unusual because the natives in Alaska are very vehemently antireservation, they have never been in favor of reservations and are not today. They would like to participate as fully as possible in the life of the State and the society. So one of the things we have done is that we have separated the native village as a municipal corporation from the native village as an incorporated tribal enterprise. And the lands and the money will be going to the incorporated tribal entity which will be gradually transformed into an ordinary business corporation with shares that are fairly alienable. This is a gradual process. It is controlled by the Alaska native commission. We have eliminated per capita grants as such.

We have said, however, that the native corporation may grant to the individual members townsite lots, fishcamp sites, and so on, but not more than 10 percent of the land may be distributed in this manner and not more than 160 acres to any one person or family. We have also said that they may make what we call family plan distribution, but that not more than 20 percent of the capital of the corporation may be distributed in family-plan type distributions. Now this, of course, is a type of per capita distribution. We recognize that, but the experience with Tyonek has been that this can be a very helpful method of improving the status of the members of the tribe. Generally, however, the State law requires that the capital of the corporation be kept intact to be invested in business enterprises, and that in the long run, over the long term, the members of the corporation will benefit primarily by being stockholders of the business enterprise, receiving dividends. Hopefully the business enterprise will make certain that natives are hired in positions of responsibility. The Tyoneks; for example, own a construction company which built a BIA building which is also owned by the Tyoneks. They own a title company in Anchorage; they have a major interest in a utility company in Anchorage. These enterprises in the long term will be of benefit to individual members of the tribe. We hope to use the capital in this fashion. We hope to use the land in this fashion and not as a reservation.

Now, we are trying to get away from the BIA, frankly, and from the Secretary of the Interior and accomplish a transition into American society. Also we want to preserve for the Indians as well as for the whites the mobility which exists in American society today. We are trying to build in provisions which will prevent us from having our villages "frozen in history." (See the extracts of the statements of John Sackett and Ruby Tansy which are attached as Attachment F.)

We have natives trained as electronic technicians who are working in Australia and in Vietnam. Educated Alaska natives have become just as highly mobile as other Americans, and they should be permitted to be so, and at the same time be permitted to share in their patrimony.

We have built in provisions attempting to do this in the State legislation. It may be that after review by your committee staff, you will want to have some of these provisions incorporated in the Federal act to make certain that it is not open to complete control by the Alaska State Legislature. We put them in the State act because we are attempting to get away from Federal control and that of the Secretary of the Interior.

At the same time, believe me, we have many very highly competent BIA representatives in this State. They have done a great deal within the limits of their ability. But the problem is that the system is basically bad and the natives of Alaska have come to believe this, and they think, by and large, the employees of the BIA have come to believe this also. Now, the Task Force proposal is an attempt to make some changes; it is an attempt to look a hundred years ahead and provide the transition and to provide for as early a transition as possible.

I would like to briefly discuss the problem of the land freeze and how we have tried to solve this. S. 2906 in effect solves it as follows: First of all, even before the Federal act is passed, or within a few months after the Federal act is passed, each native group will indicate to the Secretary of the Interior the lands which are more important to them, which they would like to gain title to. The Secretary then makes a temporary withdrawal of these lands, and the total amount of withdrawal cannot exceed 40 million acres.

As soon as this withdrawal is accomplished, which shall be not more than 6 months after the passage of the Federal act, then all of the remaining land in Alaska becomes open again for State selection or entry by other parties under the public land laws. This is similar to the approach taken in Secretary Udall's latest proposal, which we find basically acceptable. (For the approach suggested