

by the State, which is not working out, see p. 5 of Commentary on AFN Proposal, attached.)

We have endeavored to find some way of lifting the freeze at an earlier date and still protect the natives' rights to their land or at least to the land that they consider most important. We have simply not been able to work out any mechanics for doing so. This is the fastest method that we have been able to come up with.

Finally, I would like to note that we do not intend to disturb third party interests that now exist or which exist at the time that the Federal act is passed. I think this is very important because there has been a lot of concern on the part of many people that property interests—titles—were going to be disturbed. They will not be.

3. AFN proposal (amendments to Secretary Udall's proposal of April 30, 1968)

While Alaska Native Leaders were deeply distressed by Secretary Udall's proposal of April 30, 1968, now before the Congress as S. 3586/H.R. 17129, the Alaska Federation of Natives has decided to respond positively by preparing amendments to the administration bill, rather than insisting on the Task Force proposal, S. 2906/H.R. 15049. And with appropriate amendments and future modification of the state law, CSHB 672 (Finance), the best and most important features of the Task Force proposal can be melded with the administration bill to produce a compromise that will be acceptable to the great majority of Alaska's Natives.

The draft, which follows, italicizes proposed new language and language to be stricken is in brackets, in order to facilitate understanding of our proposed amendments.

These are not all of the amendments we would like to make. The others are not offered at this time in order to not clutter up the record and to facilitate passage at this session of Congress, if by some near miracle this could be possible.

Following the draft is a Commentary, explaining the AFN Proposal.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, the natives of Alaska have been waiting since 1884 for Congress to provide a means for obtaining title to the lands they occupy or claim. They rightfully believe that this land is theirs, but their leaders are prepared to adjust their claims to the land in order to accommodate the interests of the State and its people and the interests of the United States, and in order to use their land claims as a means of self-help and self-development. It has been said that nothing is so powerful as an idea whose time has come. Gentlemen, the time has come for a legislative settlement of the land claims of Alaska's native people on terms fair, generous and equitable to all. The native leaders of Alaska have designed such a settlement, and we ask that you take this opportunity for creative law making, to do justice for Alaska's natives, as they would for you.

Thank you.

AFN PROPOSAL

Amendments Proposed by the Alaska Federation of Natives to Secretary Udall's Proposal of April 30, 1968

A BILL To provide for the settlement of certain land claims of Alaska Natives, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1968."

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 2. For the purposes of this Act, the term—

(a) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior;

(b) "Native" means an Alaska Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut *including but not limited to any Native whose adoptive parent is not a Native of at least one-fourth degree Alaska Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut blood, or a combination thereof or, in the absence of proof of a minimum blood quantum, who is regarded as Native by the Native group in which he claims enrollment and whose father or mother was regarded as Native by that or any other Native group;* and