

(b) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary to pay all reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses actually incurred by any Native or Native group, as determined by the Secretary, in connection with any claims pending at the date of enactment of this Act before the Indian Claims Commission, which have been terminated by reason of section 4 of this Act and in connection with all other claims of Alaska Native to lands which claims are settled by this Act and Chapter—S.L.A. 1968 including but not limited to attorney's fees arising out or related to court, commission, legislative proceedings, and securing the passage of said acts.

(c) At the beginning of each Congress the Secretary shall report to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate the grants made under this Act and an estimate of the time needed to complete the grants. The reporting may be discontinued when the grants are substantially completed.

REPEAL

SEC. 19. Section 3 of the Act of May 25, 1926 (44 Stat. 630; 48 U.S.C. 355c) is hereby repealed.

COMMENTARY ON THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES TO SECRETARY UDALL'S PROPOSAL OF APRIL 30, 1968 FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE ALASKA NATIVE LAND CLAIMS

The Alaska Federation of Natives has reviewed the latest proposal of Secretary Udall for the settlement of the Alaska Native Land Claims and has prepared a substitute. The substitute includes the amendments necessary to make the proposal acceptable to the Alaska Federation of Natives.

The AFN continues to support S. 2906, the bill prepared by Governor Hickel's Task Force. Political realities, however, suggest that an administration bill with approval of the Bureau of the Budget, is much more likely to be adopted by Congress. The substitute prepared by the AFN is intended to include the key provisions which the AFN believes are necessary for a fair and acceptable settlement of the land claims of Alaska Natives.

Section 2(b).—Two changes are suggested. First, the task force desired to extend benefits of the settlement to Alaska Natives who are adopted by non-natives. Without appropriate language as we suggest, such persons would not be included on the rolls.

Second, there are many natives who are uncertain of their blood lines but they are regarded by their people as natives. The most striking example are the Aleut people who have been in contact with white men for hundreds of years. The proposed amendment permits such persons to be included in the absence of proof as to minimum blood quantum.

This language, however, does not help the native still living in a native culture whose blood quantum is known to be less than one-quarter native. This could be remedied by striking the words "proof of".

The AFN has no strong opinion on blood quantum. Under the task force bill one-quarter blood was included as a requirement largely in the belief that the Department of the Interior desired it. However, the task force permits benefits to be extended to persons of less than one-quarter blood in a manner somewhat similar to such provisions in Section 10 of this bill.

Section 2(c).—The AFN endorses increasing the responsibility of the Commission and a number of amendments are made to do this including transfer of functions by these amendments from the Secretary of the Interior to the Commission. The first is found here.

All or most native groups are expected to incorporate either under federal or state law. Some language recognizing this should be included especially since native groups incorporated under AS 38.30.190 will be incorporated as business corporations.

The State Act settling Alaska Native Land Claims passed by the 1968 Alaska Legislature includes incorporation provisions which are effective whether or not the state royalty goes into effect. If the state royalty does not go into effect the incorporation provisions are, in effect, optional. If the royalty does go into effect or if a subsequent legislature reenacts the state royalty, incorporation under state law or incorporation under IRA provisions is required in order to receive the state royalty.

Section 4.—The AFN objects to cancelling pending claims before the Indian Claims Commission. Our amendment leaves these claims pending. Perhaps groups