

"Bristol Bay: Housing is the most pressing and serious problem for natives in the remote villages. Generally speaking, housing is substandard. It is inadequate on terms of rooms, condition and cleanliness.

"Southwestern: In general natives live in one-room houses made of those materials which are typically available—driftwood, lumber, plywood and logs.

"Northwestern: Most houses are one room construction without insulation and sanitation facilities."

According to the Federal Field Committee, in southwestern Alaska Surveys of ten villages (1961-1963) show 348 homes containing 524 rooms, an average of 1.5 rooms per house. With a surveyed population of 1,978 persons, the average per room is 3.8 persons—a somewhat larger number of persons per room that exists for average households (3.5) across the United States. Among the ten villages the extent of overcrowding ranges from 2.3 persons per room in Tanunuk to 5.2 persons per room in Chevak.

The director of the U.S. O.E.O. after visiting Nome in 1967 described its housing, "most of the houses are ramshackle, falling-down places. But even this city has a slum that is worse than the rest of the town (King Island Village) where 500 Natives live on the most abject poverty that I've seen anywhere—including Africa, Latin America, India, or anywhere else."

"WHAT TO DO?"

The attached statement of Alaska Remote Housing Committee along with the brief of the implementations plan is the type of a program that we support for Alaska Natives. This includes the so-called "Bartlett's Bill" for native Act of 1966 (S. 1915).

Given the opportunity through the Native Land Claims settlement the Native people would help themselves in solving their own housing problems. This is why the title to 40 million acres and the 500 million dollar settlement is so important. This is a moral issue. We must be given the opportunity to adjust decently to the dominant culture that has imposed itself upon us.

We submit to your staff a copy of *The Testimony Regarding Alaska Remote Housing Program* by Edwin B. Crittenden, Executive Director, Alaska State Housing Authority and *Housing The Alaska Native* by Charles Abrams.

Your prompt action towards the settlement of the Alaska Native Land Claims is necessary for the attitude of *self-respect* for the Native people of Alaska.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I thank you for the opportunity of appearing before you.

Mr. HALEY. Does that conclude your statement?

Mr. CONNOR. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HALEY. The gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. ASPINALL. Mr. Chairman, I wish to commend the witnesses on the statements they have made, but I doubt very much that a great deal of this testimony is justification for what this committee is called upon to do in this particular. It is good history, it is a good statement of the conditions. But this committee handles only the land problems as such and claims problems as such. The matter of education, the matter of social development, the matter of health, those matters will have to be treated just as we would in any other part of the United States—they have to go to the other committees.

It may be background as to the claims of the Indians or claims of the natives, but it does not have anything to do as far as we are concerned with the equities of what the natives are entitled to insofar as the jurisdiction of this committee is concerned. I read your statement, Mr. Lekanof, before you gave it. I don't think you intended to imply that even the way the natives lived in Alaska before they tried to copy this new culture that came into their country was any more health providing than the homes and dwellings they have had since then. In other words, the rate of mortality was much greater in those early days because of the way they lived. From what records we have, if I have read my history correctly, of the bronchial troubles and so forth, than even