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343-9431

ALASKA LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT BILL SUBMITTED
TO CONGRESS BY INTERIOR

The Alaska Native Claims Bill, as submitted to Congress by the Department, would authorize the Secretary to grant up to 50,000 acres of federal public domain in the environs of each native village for the use and benefit of the members of the village. Reserves of land heretofore set aside for native villages would remain in effect.

Title to lands set aside to the Natives would be held in trust for 25 years. The trustee would be either the Secretary of the Interior, the State of Alaska, or a private trustee selected by the village and approved by the Secretary. State laws, except real estate tax laws, would apply on the lands set aside for the villages.

The bill further authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to grant to village occupants 25-year hunting, fishing, and trapping permits on other federal lands beyond the village environs. Such permits could be exclusive or non-exclusive, and could be extended an additional 25 years. Hunting and fishing by natives would be subject to state and federal game laws.

In respect to Native Claims of aboriginal occupancy of areas beyond the village environs, the bill would authorize the Attorney General of Alaska to bring suit against the United States for the value of such occupancy as of 1867, the year that the United States purchased Alaska from Russia. Jurisdiction to hear the suit would be granted the United States Court of Claims, and any moneys recovered in the suit would belong equally to the Alaska Natives. Groups of Natives who have claims pending before the Indian Claims Commission or the Court of Claims would have the option to pursue their pending claims, but if they elected to do so they could not share in any recovery made in the Attorney General's suit.

The Department of the Interior said it is not able to estimate the amount of any judgment that might be recovered for the benefit of the Alaska Natives in the Court of Claims. When the United States purchased all of Alaska from Russia in 1867, it paid \$7,200,000.

The bill authorizes the appointment of a five-man commission to assist the Secretary in selecting the lands to be granted villages, preparing the village census rolls, and performing other administrative functions. Of the five members, one would be appointed from nominees submitted by native groups, and one from nominees submitted by the Governor of Alaska.

The bill provides that selections of land by the State of Alaska under the Alaska Statehood Act, as well as other public land transactions, would proceed upon the enactment of the bill even though in conflict with Native Claims. Federal lands in a village environs, however, could not be selected by the State, or otherwise disposed of, until the Secretary of the Interior had determined that they would not be set aside for the benefit of the Natives of that village.

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94982-67

★ news release

For Release June 9, 1967

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has approved a 60-day extension of time for the receipt of comments on the Department's proposed new regulations for a limited program of oil shale leasing and development, and for the exchange of certain other Federally-owned shale lands for private lands.

The proposed regulations originally were published in the Federal Register May 9, with comments invited for 30 days thereafter. Comments will form the basis for possible changes in the proposed rules.

Numerous requests have been made for additional time to prepare and submit comments, Secretary Udall said, and the extension is being granted to encourage the widest possible range of opinion by the general public, members of Congress, industry, the scientific and educational community, and the three States most directly concerned--Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.

The official notice of the extension is scheduled for publication in the Federal Register, and the 60-day additional period will begin officially with the date of that publication.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Wilson -- 343-9431

Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall today congratulated the Zuni Indian Tribe of New Mexico for their initiative in passing one of the first Indian Sales Taxes collected primarily from Indians.

The Zuni's willingness to tax themselves will encourage those working with them in Federal and State Government programs "to new and greater effort to meet your goals," Udall said. "Your actions should stand as a guidepost for many other tribes who share your aspirations for Indian development."

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★ news release

Macfarlan -- 343-9431

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★ news release

Henderson -- 343-9431

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Wilson -- 343-9431

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today the appointment of Lloyd H. New as Superintendent of the Institute of American Indian Arts, a school operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Santa Fe, N. M. New has been the Institute's Arts Director.

A member of the Cherokee Tribe and a native of Fairland, Okla., New operated his own fabric and commercial design organization in Scottsdale, Ariz., prior to 1962 under the name Lloyd Kiva. His designs and fashion items have been featured in national publications and exhibited in many museums. In addition he served on museum boards, did field research in a variety of Indian Art forms, and was President of the Kiva Craft Center in Scottsdale. He joined the Institute staff in 1962.

New was graduated from the Chicago Art Institute. He served as a Navy Lieutenant during World War II. He is married and the father of two children.

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Henderson -- 343-9431

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★ news release

Wilson -- 343-9431

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Yakima, Wash.

IND 5

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Henderson -- 343-9431

Once established, the planning area administration committee will hire a professional staff. The committee will be made up of area board members plus an additional member from each area reservation. This group in turn will then select up to an equal number of non-Indians from neighboring communities bordering the reservations.

The result, according to BIA Area Director Head, will be to foster Indian and non-Indian interaction, working for a common objective. This is significant when it is realized that in Arizona, where only Indian reservations are designated as eligible to receive assistance from EDA programs, 17 percent of the land is privately owned while nearly 30 percent is Indian owned.

Initial coordination of the plan is being provided by a Navajo Indian, Art Hubbard, on Governor Williams' staff. This is a temporary arrangement until IDDA becomes operational.

When the professional staffs are set up, each will lay out economic development needs in its area and then research and implement indicated planning. The staffs will also assist in the preparation of applications for technical assistance and funding from various Government and private sources. In the end, though, the tribes themselves will be the applicants for such help.

Arizona's three state universities are expected to take part in the IDDA program, and planning committees may call on business and engineering consultants for further advice.

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Macfarlan -- 343-9431

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★ news release

Macfarlan -- 343-9431

★ news release

Wilson -- 343-9431

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★ news release

Herndon - 343-3609

"A comparison of this fire season with last year's shows how important this arrangement is: In 1966 the Bureau of Land Management had a bad fire year, and the Forest Service sent men and material to help. Fires on BLM land were relatively light this season so BLM could send help to control fires in national forests and national parks.

"For any single agency to maintain a fire readiness equal to the demands of a bad season would mean the agency would be over-manned in non-critical years. Cooperation through the Boise Center allows the agency with the greatest need to draw men and material from other agencies so that crises can be met with a minimum of cost to the Government."

Officials were unanimous in praise of the fire fighting crews. Singled out for special commendation were 11 firefighting teams of Alaska Eskimos and Indians. These men, trained for fire fighting in their home State by BLM personnel, were flown in to help man fire lines on the Glacier Wall area of Glacier National Park, Montana, and on the China-Deer-Eagle fire complex in the panhandle of northern Idaho.

Keith Neilson, Superintendent of Glacier National Park, said the Eskimo and Indian teams performed a tremendous job in both fire fighting and mop-up operations. "Their enthusiasm, drive and initiative made them the acknowledged pace setters almost from the time of their arrival," Neilson said in a letter to BLM Director Boyd L. Rasmussen.

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Wilson -- 343-9431

Will Rogers, Jr., son of the humorist and grandson of Cherokee leader Clem Vann Rogers, has been given a temporary appointment as Special Assistant to Indian Commissioner Robert L. Bennett, it was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall. Rogers took the oath of office September 18.

Bennett said that Rogers would spend considerable time working with students and teachers in Bureau schools, and would represent the Commissioner at meetings of tribal organizations, exhibits, festivals and other events.

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FIRST CLASS

News Editor
HERALD
Yakima, Wash. 98901

IND 5

★ news release

But today's generation of Indians have found their voice, and demand to be heeded. They are expecting to be recognized as a minority group of citizens with all the rights of social and economic choice enjoyed by the majority. They are looking more in the direction of political and social action than ever before.