

## ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES 2nd CONVENTION

02-00-133-08 PT 1

## #1 Rocky Boy drummers

Karen narrates reconvening of convention

Harry Carter intres Rev. Mercoelief

Benediction w/ Mercoelief

Harry Carter intres Don Wright

Don Wright address (8 min)

caucus to elect village representatives for each region

--calling village role for one region

--Frank Degnan explains the importance of having a good delegate

Joe Upickseun, Chairman of Credentials Committee: reading delegates chosen for each village, region by region beg. w/ Arctic Slope, N.W.Ak. Native Assoc., Bering Straits Assoc.

Karen narrates: "In all, over 200 village reps were present"

Don Wright intres Janet Parks, enrollment officier from Wash. D.C.

Janet Parks gives short talk on enrollment procedures and then answers

questions on the roll (such as: employment of natives to take roll, 2 year limitation on roll, and who is eligible)

Don Wright intres Robert Bruce from Dept. of Interior

Robert Bruce talks about identifying eligibility of natives, available land, coordination of Federal agencies (BIA, BLM). Mr. Bruce answers questions on the hardship clause, selection of important sites, regional boundries, advantages and disadvantages of reservation status.

Don Wright thanks him

02-00-133-08 PT 2

H133(b)

## #2 Don Wright intro Ken Bass's Preliminary Analysis of land claims bill which Harry Carter is to read completely

Harry Carter reads complete analysis

Don Wright thanks Harry Carter

Question asked of Mr. Carter: How do you feel about this analysis?

Harry Carter: Document well done, but the English is difficult to understand

02-00-133-08 PT 3 H133-8(0)

#3 Den Wright calls on Ken Bass, National Attorney for AFN

Ken Bass

- makes correction in Copper Center data in analysis
- summarizes major elements of settlement
- answers questions

Den Wright: White House waiting for an answer, so he calls for a recess for regions to caucus and discuss matter of Pres. Nixon signing bill

Caucus sounds

- the need for 2 lawyers for one region to prevent conflict of interests
- typewriter sounds for transition
- Chugach feelings about land claims bill and its provisions
- typewriter sounds
- John Berbridge of Tlingit-Haida Central Council answering questions from his group: Does bill achieve goals of Tlingit-Haida Council? He recommends acceptance of bill.

#4 Bering Straits caucus

02-00-133-08 PT 4

H133-D

- calling village delegates roll
- purpose of the caucus: President Nixon wishes an answer
- short speeches on need for unity in AFN
- villages cast their votes

Ka Karen narrates a transition. After the noon caucus, Ken Bass, National Attorney continued to answer questions on analysis of bill. Tim Wallis interrupted Mr. Bass and motioned the convention to recommend the president sign the bill

George Miller, Cook Inlet Native Association, gives his support to motion Cecil Barnes, Chugach Native Assoc., gives his support

Richard Ketzler, Tanana Chiefs, gives his association's feelings

Copper River Native Assoc. gives their feelings

Den Wright reads message from Bristol Bay Native Assoc.

Ed Nettin, Kodiak Assoc. gives his assoc. feelings

Joe Upickseun, Chairman of Credential's Committee, asks for convention to formally convene, after which time, ASNA will read a statement

Karen narrates: voting system will be same as used in Fairbanks convention, with each region voting on the basis of its population

Francis Degnan reads number of votes for each region

Den Wright accepts Credential Comm. report and calls convention to order

#4 cont

John Berbridge, Tlingit-Haida asks Tim Wallis to restate his motion  
Tim Wallis, Tanana Chiefs, restates his motion: to recommend to the president  
to sign the land claims bill into law

Don Wright: moved & seconded

Charlie Edwardson objects

Joe Upickseun reads a prepared statement (28 min)

Don Wright recognizes Wm Paul Sr.

William Paul Sr. gives his feelings and recommends that the convention reject  
the bill and pursue a judicial settlement

Don Wright asks for further discussion

John Berbridge makes a speech about need for unity of Natives, the past  
fight of the Tlingit-Haida for land, and the problems of the bill

#5 (18 min tape)

02-00-133-08 PT 5

H133-8(e)

Old Tlingit man talks about past work of Tlingit to help claims in Alaska

Don Wright reads Anchorage Chamber of Commerce message

Senator Willie Hensley replies to Chamber of Commerce message, reviews efforts  
of AFN for past 5½ years to achieve settlement, and the responsibility  
of each region.

Fred Netti asks for more time to consider the bill. A recess until the next day.

Don Wright asks for a vote on Fred Netti's motion to recess. Motion passes and  
first order of business next day will be vote on bill.

Fred Westerman guitar and song: "Just One Great River"

Karen narrates: Part 1 of AFN Special from Convention held in Anchorage,  
Dec. 16, 17, 18. Produced by R&K McPherson for KUAC-FM

#6

02-00-133-08

PT 6

H133-8(F)

Rocky Boy Dancers drumming and singing

Don Wright intro Emil Netti, past AFN Pres. and praises him for his help  
Emil Netti

--history of AFN over past 5 years

--early organizers

--Howard Rock and Tundra Times

--financial help of Tyoneck

--early efforts for recognition of Natives' role in land settlement

--first bills

--intros tells function of Charitable Trust (of which he is chair) in AFN

--intros Lee Gersuch from Robert Nathan firm

Lee Gersuch talks about guidelines being developed for regional corporations. Papers  
being prepared on land selection, financial investment, enrollment, training,  
planning, resource analysis

Emil Netti says a few more words

Don Wright has secretary read motion

Francis Degnan reads the motion

Don Wright: vote to be taken

Francis Degnan: yes or no vote. Begins with Upper Kuskokwim (yes), Bethel (yes),  
Tlingit-Haida (yes).....on thru all regions. Final count, 511 yes, 56 no.

Don Wright announces President Nixon will give a message  
countdown 5-4-3-2-1....

Whitehouse & Pres. Nixon: "I've just signed the bill..."

Don Wright intro Wally Hickle

Hickle: "You've won a battle that was right and human."

Don Wright--resume convention, much work to be done in this "Post Settlement Era."  
--need for unity....imperfections of bill

#7

clapping

Don Wright intro Senator Ted Stevens

Ted Stevens....congratulates Natives on vote...need for unity....on bill: 10%  
per capita payment for old people....need for Omnibus Act in following years....  
settlement a "matter of simple justice"

Don Wright intro Neil Basset of BLM, acting Chief of Div. of Resources, BLM in Anch.

Neil Basset: BLM help in determining valid allotments and mining claims, and will  
be conducting an information program with BIA

H133-8(g)

02-00-133-08 PT 7

#7 cont

John Berbridge: new "partnership relationship"...Federal and State agencies must work with and listen to Natives

Morris Thompson, Alaska Area Dir. of BIA

--conducting the roll: what it is, why being done

--appropriations of 1.8 million for work

--drawing up regulations and criteria for the roll

--contracting for work on the roll

--4 point program (not yet funded) for public info, grants to corporations, and coordination of agencies

Tim Wallis questions Mr. Thompson about AFN meeting with BIA in January

Morris Thompson: meeting for the purpose of making the roll.

#8 (17 min tape)

H133-8(h)

02-60-133-08 PT 2

Don Wright intro Nels Anderson, treasurer of AFN, with financial report

Nels Anderson: "We're broke!" Gives thanks to Native organizations for financial support

Charlie Edwardson motions for support of ASNA borough suit for North Slope Borough  
John Berbridge moves to support ASNA

Don Wright: moved and seconded

Harvey Samuelson, Bristol Bay Assoc. moves for support of AFN as coordinating agency

Don Wright: motion passed

Jim Thomas (actualities) gives his reaction to passage of the bill

--precedent for other Native claims

--need for careful planning to retain lands and money

Jack Paul Brahd Sr. from Kluwak on Prince of Whales Island tells story of raven who flew into a whale and was trapped. Very symbolic story, after which he warms the convention to stay together.

Fred Westerman's guitar: "Just One Great River"

Karen comes in after first verse: Special report on AFN convention, produced etc

Fred Westerman continues until end

ASNA  
Arctic Slope Native Assc.