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Name and place: 6th Annual Alaska Federation of Natives Convention

Date: 16-18th of December, Anchorage, Alaska

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Notes: Original in 7-inch tape, master copy on CD. Produced by Roger McPherson. THESE TAPES WERE PRODUCED AS A PART OF AN EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM NOW DEFUNCT AND WERE BROADCAST OVER THE RADIO FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

Don Wright introduces Nels Andersen, the treasurer of AFN [Alaska Federation of Natives] who is going to give a financial report. Nels Andersen says: "We're broke," [laughter] and continues by thanking people who have helped them financially, like Cook Inlet Native Association, who contributed \$6,000 dollars as a loan that they have to pay back. Tyonek people have loaned them money to advance the land claims settlement as well, and AFN has borrowed money from Yakama Nation. Tlingit and Haida Central Council have guaranteed loans that the AFN has negotiated with the National Bank of Alaska.

Andersen thanks all the people who are the collateral on the loans that they have had to take in order to fight for the land claims. [Applause.]

02:31 Charlie Edwardsen speaks and requests AFN convention's support for organizing the North Slope Borough. The boundary commission has already met with the local governor, but the boundary commission has been stagnant and the speaker would like to ask for unanimous support for the boundaries that the Arctic Slope Native Association has asked for. They don't want a home-rule government that is run by the oil companies. [Applause.]

5:14 Mr. John Borbridge asks that the convention gives their support. He moves the motion. Don Wright [?] says the motion has been moved and seconded by Tanana Chiefs. There are no objections.

Harvey Samuelson from Bristol Bay Native Association says that they fully support the Alaska Federation of Natives as a coordinating agency that is subject to its board of directors, and whose budget is subjected to review and approval by the regional corporations.

Wright asks if someone seconds the motion. Nobody opposes.

6:32 Jim Thomas says he used to be the public relations man for AFN and then a PR man to the National Congress of American Indians. He says they are all happy it's over with [the land claims battle.] Now they have to get to realities of life and stop dreaming. He voiced his concern for the lack of trust status lands and reservations in the bill in Fairbanks. He was concerned, because throughout history when Native land base was taken away, the government services were terminated to the Indian people.

They have one of the best settlements in the world and other countries are looking at the settlement, but Thomas hopes that in 20 years, the fee title lands are going to be fully protected. It needs scrutiny and leadership, so that internal bickering doesn't leave people open to vultures that are waiting for those lands to become available.

In case of Menominee [tribe], a corporate structure was established and but the stocks were eventually usurped by banks, state, and other individuals, and now the Indians themselves don't control the corporation anymore.

9:20 Jack Paul Brown Sr. from Kluwak on the west coast of Prince of Wales Island speaks. He's a president of Tlingit and Haida branch at Kluwak. He says he feels like the Raven that flied inside of a whale. Raven was hungry and went inside of a whale, but there was no way to get out. He built fire with matches and started cooking. He cooked everything from inside of the whale and the whale was dead. Raven didn't have any way to get out of the whale, but he wished that the whale would drift on fine sand. He kept saying that he wished that the whale would drift onto fine sand. Pretty soon he felt something, like the whale was drifting against something, and pretty soon he didn't feel anything. The whale's mouth opened and Raven came out. He killed the whale for the people who needed help the worst way.

Brown says that he's not just talking about the people who are sitting at the convention, but about their people. They would like to work together in unity and love to accomplish something, but if they fail, they are going to be lost like the Raven inside the whale.

12:04 Fred Westerman's song "Just one Great River" plays. Karen tells about the program series about the Alaska Federation of Natives convention.

[End of the recording.]