

Call Number: 02-00-35 Side B

A Conference on the Future of Alaska- Mallot

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Notes: Original on 7 inch reel. Master copy on CD.

[Continuation from Side A] A woman is asking Hensley a question. [Inaudible]...be given. The amount now requested until the proper... [Inaudible]...Where would the [inaudible be] if relationships went to hell and [inaudible]. Hensley says he's not sure of the woman's situation but there are many communities out west that are close to one another. There would have to be some kind of judiciary practice in the state rather than Washington D.C. For instance, when the controllers in Washington D.C. and when Alaska Natives decide they would be better protected by the interior department they probably would have petitioned for reservations. To this very day you would find very few people in the villages that would support the idea of reservations. Hensley says the administrators such as Gruening and others felt that this wasn't the best thing for the natives. Hensley says he looked at the records in Washington D.C. in regard to Sheshalik. Sheshalik is near a very valuable copper deposit and other mineral deposits. There were two hearings, one in Kotzebue and one in Sheshalik. Well-meaning whites and prospectors opposed the idea of reservations because they wanted the minerals. And naturally Kennecott Copper has a hold of the mineral land behind Kobuk. Hensley says most of the villages if they attained any land wouldn't really have any valuable lands except a few on the North Slope.

At 2:33 the woman asks a partially inaudible question to Hensley about how he wants the land distributed to the villages and she also mentions hunting grounds. Hensley says that Alaska Natives couldn't possibly, from a politically realistic standpoint try to get villages that are now uninhabited. The fact of the matter is that in many of the locations around the state Alaska Natives have lands that are used many times out of the year, for example Sheshalik, where many people from Kotzebue go to. Hensley says it wasn't many years ago when there was small groups of Eskimo people scattered throughout the North Slope. Hensley says Alaska Natives have been consolidated because of churches and schools. At 4:20 Hensley says thank you and steps away from the microphone.

The woman [Mrs. Hitchcock] begins discussing inaudibly and Mr. Hensley says in terms of her point, Alaska Natives have never taken the opinion of claiming land that is already held by others. He says when he was trying to get his region to understand the issue and what they could do to protect themselves in terms of disposition of lands that was just prior to this so called freeze, in all of those villages they're practically sitting on public land and practically anybody could have went to a BLM office in Fairbanks and looked on the map and said "I want that land right here" and they could have gotten half of Kotzebue. Hensley says Alaska Natives didn't know any disposition that was going on so what the Alaska Natives were trying to do with the Blanket Claims is claim land based on use and occupancy for

that particular region. Hensley says his good friend Edith Bullock [an executive committee member of the chamber of commerce] had a long discussion with Hensley and he told her if it was poor whites he would be doing the same thing. Hensley feels they would have a right to protect themselves.

At 7:10 of the recording a man asks a question to Hensley. The man asks "Do you have any idea what percentage of people who push, understand the main ramifications of this [inaudible]?" Hensley says once the issue started going it was all we could do to keep up with it. Hensley says Alaska Natives have never been funded adequately from his standpoint. Hensley says it's difficult to inform the people of their standpoint because it takes a lot of hill to get to a couple hundred villages. He says they've sent a lot of paper but that doesn't mean anything if no one in the villages can read it or understand it all. He says the things Alaska Natives are dealing with are quite complex. He says what Alaska Natives have tried to do is get rid of all of the contingencies and major conflicts. He said that Alaska Natives have had villages with executive order reservations. Some reservations are as large as 1.5 million acres up north, and some small, down to a couple thousand. Most of the villages could not afford to come to these meetings so what villages have tried to do is have a representative elected in each region who know the situation. Hensley says he represented the Northwest and there were people from the North Slope. Pretty much the way AFN [Alaska Federation of Natives] is organized is there are responsibilities to groups in that region; it is a federation of organizations. Hensley says he just returned from Grayling. The people in Grayling asked him to talk about politics and land claims. Hensley says the Natives in the villages are not completely familiar with the issues. Hensley thinks if this situation continues and there wasn't a settlement in some time, the provisions of what the AFN would be asking for now would be substantially more now than what is in the bill. He thinks this because he feels as time progresses; the Native people in the villages are going to learn more and more about the situation. Hensley says he thinks AFN could have done a better job but they just didn't have the funds.

The man in the crowd asks another question at 11:04 of the recording. The man asks Hensley if he has met any Natives who think they are going to be handed a big settlement. Hensley says he hasn't had that experience much and he doesn't know how it is in the urban centers. What he tells the Alaska Natives is that congress doesn't support per capita payments and AFN has provided provisions in the legislation that would allow somewhat of a family plan that is basically a per capita based on the needs of the families. A lot of it would be invested and a lot would be dividends. Hensley says he doesn't want there to be the idea that one day there's going to be a big party. A man in the crowd makes a statement and says in Hensley's opening remark he denied that there is any racial backlash. Hensley says he doesn't think there are any racial overtones. The man says "You say there are none?" Hensley replies, "None." The man asks "You still believe there are no racial overtones?" And Tom Fink replies "Absolutely." At 13:00 a majority of the man in the crowd's statement is inaudible but it is clear he is discussing the \$500 million to be claimed over a 20 year period and a mathematical equation. Tom Fink says he is not sure Gruening said he wants 20 years. He says the Department of the Interior suggested over 20 years. Fink said he was just making comparison that there 8 points the governor agrees on with the AFN that neither the Federal Interior Committee or the Department of the Interior agree on. He says why they want \$500 million over 20 years, he doesn't know. He says he does know this, that secretary Hickel... [The recording stops at 14:37 and resumes at 18:44]. When the recording resumes

Fink is discussing how the older village people will probably stay in the village the rest of their lives but he believes the younger people will not stay in the village. He says he knows Senator Maurice Gravel is working for the city broil concept and it is something really that it is probably going to come out of one bill. Fink thinks that the important thing is that we integrate the entire state of Alaska and this gives us the opportunity. Fink says 10-15 years from now no one is going to use 30 miles from the village and there won't even be people hunting to any extent at all in 20 years.

At 19:40 a man in the crowd suggests that Fink is saying whether an Alaska Native wants to or not, Fink thinks the Alaska Native should go white. Fink says he is predicting that when the various groups get their money, that's the direction [the white way] they are going to go. Fink begins talking about how he used to live in a farm area. He says it has happened as we get better educated and want more diversified job opportunities. He says the more money people get the nicer things they want because they want the cultured way of living and people gravitate towards that. Fink says with or without any settlement the state is going to have those high standards of living because health standards are going to be raised.

At 20:45 a woman asks if Fink is saying that thousands of Natives are going to start [inaudible]. Fink says no, that he is saying we are going to do that [?] whether they get it or not. Fink says that the state has never had the money to do a lot of things, the BIA has been doing it and they haven't done a very good job. Fink says some of the people that are opposed to the 2% think that it is unjust and inequitable feel that there are several substantial dangers. One substantial danger is that one part of the citizens of Alaska will receive a certain amount and Fink feels that it will build up a fund and the way the Native Lands Claim bill is set up, there are definite limitations on the alienation of land and money and Fink feels a tremendous amount of money will develop into state funds or regional funds. Fink says since not every Native knows what's going on with the lands claims, and Fink says a small number of political leaders will have a lot of power because of the fact that the settlement is tied up in a knot. Fink says if you take 2% overriding royalty, he could easily see how in two years there'd be 2 billion dollars tied up. Fink says he doesn't object if the money gets to the people but he doesn't believe the bill is designed to go to the people for many years. Politically, Fink feels if the money does end up in one big pile, or 12 piles having the same attorneys for all twelve piles, the Alaska Native corporations will be a political force far beyond the state of Alaska. Fink says we [Those opposing the bill] feel the Alaska Natives would be one of the biggest forces in the United States. 12 or 20 people will control, or have a tremendous influence on 2 billion dollars. A woman in the crowd asks a partially inaudible question about \$900 million dollars. Fink says the \$900 million is owned by the state of Alaska and the people who make that law are elected by the people every two years or four years and he thinks it's subject to a lot more scrutiny.

A woman makes an inaudible statement at 25:00. Fink says you could argue that, but Willie [William Hensley] indicated a while ago that some of the people in the village don't know all the terms of the lands claims and Fink thinks that the people who vote in statewide elections are able to be in control. Fink says as far as he's concerned, he doesn't believe it's a justified part of any settlement. Fink says he thinks \$500 million dollars and the Native land ought to be enough to allow a group to be in the mainstream.

Hensley steps up and says in short, the Alaska Native position has been not to cut themselves down before the cutting is done. He says naturally Alaska Natives realize that what they've opted first is a political process and settlement and from his [Hensley's] reading of the matter before it became an issue, he felt that what Alaska Natives ought to do is stretch the land figure because the question has always been about financial settlement because it's been easier to jip the Indian out of money. The way the AFN had it set up was that in the AFN's initial observation they felt that a great portion of the settlement should go to the village level. AFN provided a structure that they already pretty much had through the federation. The federation had villages, regional organizations and a statewide corporation. It has taken some time to develop ideas in the courtroom but Alaska Natives have never really been sure of what is politically possible. He says Alaska Natives don't know whether they should go about it as one group but they settled for a regional setup. Alaska Natives opted for a somewhat tribal structure which you have throughout the country. Hensley says there are regions that are pretty well tied together through marriage and the villages with pretty well defined geographic regions. He said AFN provided for a bulk of the funds to go to the lands and villages and the villages would be in control of their lands and funds and AFN provided a smaller portion for the regional organizations which AFN figured would be an investment group and then the statewide group. Part of the AFN thinking revolved around Alaska Native desire to have as much control over the resources as possible rather than having the secretary which is the traditional method, whether it was secretary Hickel or anyone else. Hensley says Tom [Fink] is fearful of all of this awesome political power and he makes no bones about how there are some people in the state who are very powerful politically because they have a lot of money. Hensley then says that Fink does not argue that they are a harm to the state and then asks "Is Bob Atwood a harm to the state?" Hensley says AFN feels that it's the American political process that they are working in. Hensley says AFN has done well for such a small group. Hensley says it is unreasonable to think the Native people are going to turn themselves over to some big lawyers. Hensley says if you observe the news and read the press that during the existence of AFN there have been political struggles and Hensley says the struggles are a continuation of something has been around prior to the formation of the federation. Hensley says that Tom [Fink] realizes that the power and money is something that most people seek after, in the mainstream. Hensley thinks Fink's idea of integrating the state is a fine idea and it is occurring but then Hensley decides to tell a story about a trip to France at 31:45. Hensley says he met many Greenlanders [Indigenous group] there. Hensley says in Greenland the Danish government has had pretty much a policy of trying to keep the ravages of civilization from tearing them up too badly and you couldn't get to Greenland through the Danish government. What the Danish government realized was that the indigenous people of Greenland were different. The indigenous Greenland people have a different language and culture. Hensley says that the Danish are trying to get the Greenlanders to speak Danish from "the cradle." Hensley says most of the Greenlanders spoke and wrote fluently in Eskimo. He says the Greenlanders put him on the spot because they said "How is it there? Are the Native people becoming equal to the whites?" Hensley says he wasn't sure what to tell them but he was honest and told the Greenlanders that the Alaskan system was brutal. Hensley says he could make it but in the process he would have to "de-Eskimo" himself, which is ethnocide.

At 36:10 a man asks a question about if Mr. Hensley "has ever met an important white politician from Alaska proper who believes [the rest is inaudible.]" Mr. Hensley says no and that he can't find much

intelligent discussion with many Alaska politicians. The crowd laughs and claps. He says there are exceptions like Tom Fink but they are very rare.

A woman asks a question at 35:38 of the recording. The question is inaudible and Mr. Hensley says he is not sure about the subject of her question. He says the problem is that the whole concept of private ownership is new to most Native people in Alaska. He says private ownership of land is something Alaska Natives are going to have to live with and something that they recognize. MR. Hensley says when Alaska is developed; the situation of land ownership will be like that of the Lower 48, unless some of the conservationists manage to pick up some of the public land. Hensley says that from his stay in Washington D.C., most of the country feels that they own the state of Alaska. Hensley says 97% of Alaska is federal land. Hensley says the Native people have been cooperative and have helped the miners survive because the Natives knew how. Hensley believes the slanted articles by W.C. Arnold verge on propaganda where you have innuendo and Hensley thinks it's very poor writing. At 39:53 Hensley says thank you and leaves the microphone.

A woman in the crowd asks if Native have the right to ask for 2% royalties to be used in certain ways, might other groups be allowed to get the 2% royalties for reasons that they see fit.

A man responds [Not clear who] and says that it is a difficult question because the woman is making the assumption that the Alaska Natives would use the 2% royalty for very specific purposes. The man says the woman has to go back to Mr. Fink's comments that large sums of money would go to lawyers and a couple Native Alaskan leaders. The man says that he thinks anything the Alaska Natives gets, everyone should get. The man says he believes every person has a basic right to things like healthcare. A woman asks a question at 46:57 of the recording. The comment is regarding Senator Stevens discussing that if the Native Land Claims...[Much of the women's comment is inaudible]. Some of the topics she discusses are the BIA and healthcare. The man who was speaking just earlier chimes in and discusses that federal agencies in charge of Native education and healthcare recognize that American Indians have specialized educational problems, specialized healthcare problems, and different cultural problems. The man says as far as Alaskans are concerned, he then says this is still personal opinion, the majority are opposed to the termination of the BIA but Native people are willing to accept the BIA and public health system as the lesser of two evils. The man says until government, in this instance state government, recognize that there are differences among human groups and that criteria should be set out based not on race but on need.

At 54:00 a woman in the crowd asks a question and one of the panelists says it is just general tax revenue of the federal government.

Edna says that the time is running short and she is wondering if someone has another question. She tells a woman in the crowd that the film was shown at 7 o'clock.

A man asks a question at 55:12 that is partially inaudible. The man is discussing the responsibilities of civilians during the settlement. He says he assumes you [Not clear who he is referring to] were in Alaska at the time the bill was passed. He says at the time the Bill was passed he was living in a Native village. He says in looking through the Anchorage Times from August 1968 he came across a statement in an

article that said everyone is going to benefit from the Bill. The article says the Alaska Natives were going to benefit because their land and fishing rights would be made permanent. The man says at about the same time it was rumored that Alaska would be pushing for reservations. Senator Ted Stevens made a statement that the Natives would not be disturbed at all on their land. In the Statehood Act itself, you'll find the use of the word "compact" and that word is when the people of Alaska agree not to take over or use land used by federal government. The man says in the Native village that he lived; the Natives were told that if you go for statehood, you won't be losing any of your rights or privileges. The idea of not losing rights through statehood was the general discussion. The man proceeds to say "In light of these things, do you feel that the state of Alaska is doing the moral thing, the right thing, taking the present position that the state representation has?" Tom Fink says he thinks the state of Alaska is taking the right moral position, not fighting the Native groups. Fink says that he heard it said that no state has ever participated in a settlement of aboriginal claims. Fink says that is the only hang up he sees, is that the state is getting involved because usually the federal government has always taken care of it. Fink says whatever rights that have been taken from Native people have always been taken away by the Federal Government. Fink says the Statehood Bill gave Alaska a warranty deed to 103 million acres of land. Now the Federal government seems to say that Alaska can have those 103 million acres of land if you're willing to pay the 2% royalty on it in perpetuity for a certain period of time. Fink says maybe the Federal Government hasn't been fair with the state of Alaska either. Fink says if he gives the man [Who asked the question] and Dr. Tarr a warranty deed then tried putting a royalty on it, Fink will get sued. Fink says that the Federal Government gave Alaska 103 million acres and now they're saying maybe you ought to pay an overriding royalty on it. Fink says congress has never talked about the state of Alaska paying before. Fink says the Federal Government is talking about the royalty payment now because Alaska got \$900 million dollars and because Alaska is wealthier than any other state in the nation. The recording then stops from 59:00 to 59:16.

The man in the crowd asking the question says he is not concerned about the overriding royalty, he is concerned about the fact that the state of Alaska wants their 103 million acres of land no matter what the Native people want, no matter what the Natives think they have. Fink says the state has decided that whatever land the state has selected will be conveyed to the Native villages. The man in the crowd asks about the fight in Nenana is. Fink says he does not know what the fight in Nenana is. The man says the fight in Nenana is where the state of Alaska took land that the Natives said is theirs. Fink stumbles on his words at 1:00:00 and then says that the state agrees that the Native village areas are two townships. Fink says he doesn't think there is any question with the legislatures and the governor would appropriate land in the immediate vicinity of the Native village that the state now has given to the Natives. Fink says that he has suggested that the state of Alaska go ahead and select the 7 million acres in the Native villages and give them to the Natives. Fink says of 103 million acres, Alaska could easily afford 7 million acres. The man in the crowd says it is not the quantity that he is worried about. The man says when he and Fink voted, they said the Native people would not be disturbed, not just the land that they have their houses on but the land that they use. Fink says the term "Native Use", if it goes to court, that is the thing that will be interpreted. Fink says he doesn't think that going to the land once a year constitutes use in the legal sense not in Fink's properly just sense. Fink then says "Maybe Mr. Hensley can say if he feels the Alaska Natives have been discriminated against by the state of Alaska."

Fink says he thinks "Alaska Natives have been enriched by statehood the same way everyone else has been enriched by statehood." Fink says he wishes the Native Lands Claims would have been solved then because it would have been an awfully lot easier for everybody.

At 1:01:45, Mr. Hensley steps up to the microphone and says a new round of debates is going to start and asks Bob Fink where he is going. Hensley says if it was necessary to have eliminated the North Slope and North Boundaries from the state, Alaska would have written off the North Slope and the Northwest in 1958. Hensley says now that there is a little bit of wealth up in the Northwest and North Slope. Alaska wants it in the state. Statehood was sold to the Natives on the basis that it was going to be good for them. Hensley says the Alaska Natives are in jeopardy in terms of the land because of the statehood. Hensley says that the fact of the matter is that under statehood or if Alaska was a territory, the Native people would have had problems. The fact is that Natives are changing because the pressures are on Alaska Natives. Hensley says it is not a question of races; it's a matter of government policy. The crowd claps and the recording ends.