

**WILL SURRENDER TITLE TO 300 MILLION ACRES — BORBRIDGE**

BORBRIDGE (Continued from preceding page)

production of resources from all lands in Alaska presently in Federal ownership; and for the payment to the Natives of 500 million dollars. It also provides for the establishment of state and regional Native corporations to administer the funds and property received pursuant to the settlement.

The settlement proposal, particularly the royalty provision, has been attacked by some as inflated and unreasonable.

Rational evaluation of the reasonableness of the compensation we are seeking can only proceed from the understanding that presently the Natives are the beneficial owners of virtually the whole state. We are prepared to agree that our title to all but 40 million acres may be ex-

tinguished. In other words, our proposal contemplates our surrendering title to over 300 million acres of land. Under the law and the policy of the United States we are entitled to just compensation for the land we surrender.

**Agony and Frustration**

Nothing has contributed so much to the agony and frustration that have attended the Nation's efforts to develop a dynamic Indian policy than the feeling of the First Americans that in many instances they were dealt with inequitably when their aboriginal holdings were acquired from them by the United States.

Most of the suits that have been prosecuted against the Government by native groups have been based on the contention that they received inadequate and inequitable compensation for the lands that they surrendered. The merit of the contention is demonstrated by the magnitude of the judgments for additional compensation that have been entered in recent years by the courts and the Indian Claims Commission.

The best insurance the Nation can take out against dealing unfairly with the Natives of Alaska, and having at some future time to attempt to fashion a remedy which history informs will be unsatisfactory at best, is to accord the Natives a continuing right to share in the proceeds of the very thing they will convey—the land itself. We seek a final settlement.

**Bargain Rates**

It should be pointed out that, as the Natives presently possess full beneficial rights in the lands involved, adoption of this part of our proposal would not result in our receiving anything that is not already ours, except a firming up of tenure. This would amount to 10% of the land for 20% of the people. This grant will not deter the development of Alaska. It will enable Alaska Natives to share in that development.

Respecting the compensatory elements of the Native proposal—the 500 million dollars and the two percent royalty—I have already pointed out that these would be given in exchange for over 300 million acres of land. No one knows what the present fair market value of the 300 million acres is, but certainly it is many times

*(Continued on next page)***New Quarterly Chairman**

The second Quarterly Chairman for 1970 is John A. Sproul, a senior attorney for Pacific Gas & Electric Co., announced Commonwealth Club of California President John Buserud.



He has been a member of the Commonwealth Club since 1949, being proposed by his father, Robert G. Sproul, past president of the University of California at Berkeley and Club Honorary Life Member.

The new Quarterly Chairman was the secretary for the Section on the Administration of Justice in 1952 and 1953. He has also served on the Club Nominating Committee.

Mr. Sproul received both his A.B. and law degrees from the University of California at Berkeley.

He is a member of the California Constitution Revision Commission and the Board of Trustees of the California College of Arts and Crafts.

Mr. Sproul is married and has four children. He claims all spectator sports and golf and fishing as prime leisure activities.