

the Natives. Although the decision of the Court of Appeals shows that there are alternative means available to the Natives to protect their rights, resort to them would very likely entail years of enervating administrative and judicial proceedings which would serve the interests of neither the State, the Nation nor the Natives.

From time to time I have heard the questions asked:

Why are the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Southeast Alaska seeking to participate in the benefits of the general Native claims settlement? Weren't all their claims determined in the litigation which resulted in their being awarded the \$7.5 million judgment?

The answer to the second question is "no". All of the claims of the Tlingit and Haida Indians were not determined in the case in the Court of Claims which resulted in that judgment. We have several cases now pending before the Indian Claims Commission in which we are seeking judgments greater in amount than the award we received in the Court of Claims. And, what is of larger significance, the Court of Claims determined that we still have aboriginal title to approximately 2.6 million acres of land in the northern part of Southeast Alaska.

As I said before, Native groups throughout Alaska claim to have aboriginal titles to areas which in the aggregate amount to about 90 percent of the land in the State. These claims, while well-founded, have not been adjudicated. The Tlingit and Haida, on the other hand, have judicially confirmed aboriginal title to the 2.6 million acres.

The settlement proposals now before Congress contemplate that we will surrender our title to most of this land. It has also been proposed