

3.

SETTLEMENT - FOR THEY TOO, SEEK A FINAL SETTLEMENT.

IN ADDITION TO A JUST AND EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT, THE NATIVES OF ALASKA SEEK THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MAXIMUM SELF-DETERMINATION. THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT STIFLING PATERNALISM. THEY SEEK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REALIZE THEIR OWN VAST UNREALIZED POTENTIAL FOR SELF-DEVELOPMENT.

YOU ARE BUSINESSMEN, THE ENTREPRENEURS, THE "DOERS". YOU HAVE HAD TO RIDE AND FALL ON YOUR BUSINESS JUDGMENT AND YOU WANT THE FACTS. YOUR JUDGMENT AS TO YOUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE WILL BE MEASURED IN TERMS OF ITS CONSEQUENCES LONG AFTER WE ARE GONE.

LET IT BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT I DO NOT APPEAR BEFORE YOU AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE NATIVE PEOPLE WHO ADVOCATES THE CAUSE OF LAND RIGHTS, OR SEEKS YOUR SUPPORT BECAUSE OF EXISTING DISPARITIES IN LEVELS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING. NOR DO I SEEK YOUR SUPPORT BECAUSE I AM A NATIVE AND YOU MUST HELP THE NEEDY NATIVE PEOPLE. I AM HERE TO ARTICULATE THE FIRM BASIS OF LEGAL PRINCIPLES ENUNCIATED IN A SERIES OF SUPREME COURT DECISIONS, AND OUR COMMITMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY, WHICH UNDERLIES THE ALASKA NATIVE LAND RIGHTS, WHICH WE AS NATIVE PEOPLE ARE ASSERTING. THIS ISSUE IS OF VITAL CONCERN TO ALL ALASKANS.

THE ALASKA NATIVE SEEKS A CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION OF THIS LONG PENDING ISSUE. OUR FELLOW CITIZENS IN ALASKA AND THE SOUTH 48 ARE ASKED TO FORMULATE JUDGMENTS ON THE LAND CLAIMS, WHILE HANDICAPPED BY A RELATIVE LACK OF RELEVANT INFORMATION, AND A LIMITED UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEX PRINCIPLES INVOLVED. YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR BECOMING INFORMED, JUST AS THE NATIVES BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR TELLING THEIR STORY TO ALASKA AND THE NATION.