Interior Committee Chairman Henry Jackson (D-Wash) said the Senate bill provided "legal justice to all of the parties involved -- the native people of Alaska, the state of Alaska, the Federal Government -- and opens the door of opportunity to the native people of Alaska."

Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) said the bill represented the last major claims of native North Americans against the U.S. for land taken away in the great push westward across the continent.

The House bill, passed October 20, would give the Alaska natives $925 million and 40 million acres of land. (DER No. 204, A-3)

Under the House bill, the Alaska natives would be permitted to select 18 million acres immediately for expansion of about 200 villages. The remaining 22 million acres would become available after Alaska completes selection of the land granted under its statehood law.

Differences between the House and Senate bills now must be resolved by a conference committee.

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PESTICIDES: EPA TO RULE ON DDT BAN BY MARCH; SCIENTISTS FIND DDT, PCB IN OCEAN SPECIMENS

In two separate but related actions involving the pesticide DDT, the Environmental Protection Agency on Monday rejected a proposal for an immediate ban on DDT but said it would rule on the use of the pesticide by next March; and scientists working under the program for the International Decade of Ocean Exploration (IDOE) reported finding concentrations of DDT and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in nearly all specimens of plants and animals collected on cruises throughout the Atlantic Ocean.

The EPA action came in response to a federal appeals court order that it reconsider its decision of last March to allow use of DDT to continue while evidence concerning the pesticide's alleged benefits and hazards is presented at public hearings. These hearings are expected to end in December, and EPA Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus said it would make more sense to await all the evidence before ruling.

The court order was in response to a suit by Environmental Action, Inc., seeking to overrule the EPA and force an immediate ban on DDT. The court on September 22 told Mr. Ruckelshaus to answer by November 1, taking into consideration a new report from the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Mr. Ruckelshaus said the committee findings supported his earlier decision to allow the use of DDT to continue, and cited the committee's conclusions that "existing hazards linked to DDT result from DDT that is already in the environment," and that an abrupt ban might force premature use of more hazardous pesticides.

The scientists working under the IDOE program collected sargassum weed, zooplankton, flying fish, triggerfish, dolphin-fish, sharks, and many animals, including small fish that daily migrate from the surface to as deep as 3,000 feet, according to their report to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission meeting in Paris this week.

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CORPORATIONS: RALPH NADER URGES FEDERAL INCORPORATION TO HALT CORPORATE ABUSE OF POWER MONS 077364

Federal incorporation as a way to overcome corporate abuse of power was promoted over the weekend by Ralph Nader at a two-day conference on Corporate Accountability.

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