

Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc.
48 East 86th Street, New York 28, New York
BUtterfield 8-6173

*Alaska
Indians*

10-11

file

For Release

OCT 16 1948

BIG BUSINESS SEEKS EVICTION OF ALASKAN INDIANS FROM THEIR FISHING GROUNDS

An Alaskan Indian village will be destroyed by big business and thousands of other Alaskan natives deprived of their livelihood unless the Supreme Court comes to their rescue, the Association on American Indian Affairs declared at its New York office today as it announced the filing of a brief amicus curiae to get these simple villagers their day in court.

In Hynes vs. Grimes Packing Co., et al, now on appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court, the large salmon fishing and canning companies seek to invalidate the right of the Native Village of Karluk to the waters in which its people have fished from time immemorial. If they win, and the injunction against enforcement of village fishing regulations granted by the lower courts is sustained, the 200 inhabitants of this coastal village on Kodiak Island, Alaska, face destitution and starvation. Moreover, if their right to their fishing waters is denied, some 35,000 American Indian citizens of Alaska face a similar fate.

"This case is unprecedented," said a spokesman of the Association on American Indian Affairs. "The fate of this village is being decided, and through it that of the native population of Alaska, without the village or any of its people being a party to this suit. We have joined the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Congress of American Indians, and the Alaska Native Brotherhood, in