

Yukon Native Rights Okayed for Kluane

The traditional hunting and fishing rights of Indians will be guaranteed within the boundaries of all parks created in Bill S-4, including Kluane National Park, according to Northern Development minister Jean Chretien.

Replying to questions at the Indian Affairs and Northern Development standing committee meeting in Ottawa Tuesday Mr. Chretien said traplines would not be permissible because they constituted commercial hunting.

When the IAND committee visited Whitehorse last week two Indian bands, the Kluane and the Champagne/Aisihihik, asked

that they be allowed to carry out fishing and hunting to provide food and clothing.

According to Yukon MP Erik Nielsen this is the first time Mr. Chretien has made this statement in the House of Commons or anywhere else. "It's a very positive statement," said Mr. Nielsen.

Other amendments proposed in Whitehorse including one which would mean the NWT and Yukon territorial government would have to agree to national parks rather than being only consulted are expected to be dealt with

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WHITEHORSE STAR,
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Park Changes Up

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Thursday when the committee continues its clause by clause reading of the bill.

Mr. Nielsen said the agreement amendment moved by Conservative Joe Clark has been seconded by Wally Firth. He added that Mr. Chretien is resisting this motion because he believes it means giving full control of resources to the territorial governments.

The committee's report on their Whitehorse visit, which includes an unanimous motion asking the federal government to accept the territorial councils repeated demands for constitutional reform, has been supplied to the House of Commons.

It is expected that a motion of concurrence will be moved sometime later this week. At that time the report would be discussed.