

Trip Impresses Congresswoman Julia Hansen

Energetic Congresswoman Julia Hansen of the State of Washington made a whirlwind tour of Alaska during the last few days.

She visited the village of Minto and came back to Fairbanks much impressed with its chief, Peter John.

"Peter John has ideas of what he wants and he comes right out with them," Mrs. Hansen said.

She said that the Indian people she met in the interior were frank, open as well as thoughtful. There was no difficulty in communications because they all spoke English. "I was delighted with their responses," she stated.

She also said that Chief Peter John was not very happy about not getting paid for supervising the Neighborhood Youth Corps program workers in the village.

"I'll have to talk to Sargent Shriver about that," she said.

Mrs. Hansen is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations that funds 20 bureaus including

Congresswoman

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the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

Although she was on something of a vacation during the recess of Congress for the 4th of July, she decided to make "purely a business trip" to Alaska to see the functions of the bureaus she helps to fund.

The Congresswoman made a side trip to Tyonek, a wealthy Indian village in Cook Inlet near Anchorage.

"Tyonek is immaculate and clean which points out that if the Indian has the means, he will take care of himself accordingly," Mrs. Hansen said.

She noted that in the other villages she visited, sanitation and health facilities were badly needed. She also took particular notice of the mosquitoes at Minto.

"When I was in Minto, a little girl warned me, 'Look out Mrs., those mosquitoes will bite hard.' There is a need to do something about that."

Obviously interested in what she had seen on her trip, Rep. Hansen plans to "make a newsletter of the trip and distribute it to my constituents."

"They also should know what is going on up here," she said.

Mrs. Hansen was accompanied on her trip by Clarence Pautzke who heads the Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C. Bob Carroll of the Fairbanks District Office of the BIA escorted them to the villages.

Mrs. Hansen's home is at Cathlamet, Washington. She has worked with the Indians in her state along educational lines.

She is also interested in the Pribilof Islands "to see what progress has been made there."

"I want to come back next year," she said, "and I will visit Eskimo villages on that trip."