

## NCAI Hires James Thomas as PR Man

Jim Thomas who was fired as Alaska Federation of Natives public relations director this month on March 15, is taking a job as a PR director for the National Congress of American Indians.

Thomas will have his office in Washington, D.C. He will be leaving for the nation's Capitol next Sunday.

His work will involve fund raising and increasing the membership of the NCAI—very much

the type of work he has been doing for the AFN.

NCAI represents a half million American Indians across the nation.

Although AFN board discussed Thomas' matter yesterday at the meeting, Jim Thomas said the discussion should not involve him directly anymore.

The AFN board indicated that the organization might hire a full-time public relations man.

### Stung Once Too Often—

## Eklutna No Longer Releasing Lands

Eklutna, a small Indian village just north of Anchorage, has passed a resolution stating that it will no longer release any of its land to the Greater Anchorage Area Borough, the state, or the federal government until the land claims issue has been settled to the satisfaction of the Native people.

The Natives of Eklutna, the resolution stated, have on numerous occasions granted easements, rights-of-way, acreage, and free access for the use of its lands to various agencies of the federal government, the territorial and state government, the Greater Anchorage Area Borough and the United States Army.

On none of these occasions, have the Native people of Eklutna received consideration of compensation for such taking of its land.

In giving their reasons for the resolution, the villagers cited their support for the land claims position of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

As stated in the resolution, the Village of Eklutna is in agree-

ment with the AFN that the land freeze not be lifted until the land claims of the Native people of Alaska have been justly and equitably resolved by joint participation of both the state and federal governments.

According to T.G. Bingham of the Bureau of Land Management office in Anchorage, the Eklutna natives have filed two protests: one in October of 1966 for 390,000 acres and one in December of 1966 for 23,000 acres.

The BLM records, he said, show that the village has made four releases subject to no effect on the Natives rights to any compensation from the Federal government.

The releases are: 1. for a five acre homesite existing prior to their protest 2. 320 acres for State selection for further development of the Arctic Ski Bowl 3. for an electric transmission line right-of-way 4. 117 acres for State selection for local school construction. The first three releases were granted in 1967 with the last one being granted in 1968.

## AFN Not for State Bill

(Continued from page 1)

benefit the natives, one board member said.

The rural areas of Alaska have needs now, another member said, so why not appropriate the money now, whether or not there is a federal land claims settlement.

"We might not get a land claims settlement through Congress by Jan. 1, 1970," Flore Lekanof added.

Another board member, Byron Mallott, stressed, "We do not disapprove the appropriation of that amount of money to solving the problems of rural Alaska, but we do disapprove of the state meeting the needs of rural Alaska under the guise of State participation in the land claims settlement."

A staff attorney of the legislative council was on hand to explain provisions of the bill and to carry back criticisms of the bill to the legislative council.

Following his initial explanation, twenty some board members began discussing the bill point by point and offering their criticisms to it.

However, after reviewing only part of it, with opposition to the bill mounting, Don Wright recommended that the bill be sent to the Rural Affairs Commission.

According to Wright, who is a Commission member, the Commission was created by Hickel, but its nearly forty members did not meet last year and have not yet met this year.

The members are from all over Alaska, he said, most are natives and are familiar with the problems in the rural areas and should be called upon to assist in draft-

ing appropriate legislation.

The Governor, he added, is supposed to call a meeting of the group once a year.

"It seems strange," Mallott said, "that no native people and no people understanding rural Alaska have been consulted in writing the bill."

According to him, the bill is a product of partisan politics that has surrounded State participation in the native land claims settlement.

Under the current proposal, money would be appropriated to the State Rural Development Agency by the State Legislature.

This agency, with the approval of the Legislature, would set up rural development districts in areas with at least 30 residents and no more than 2,000 residents, and a Rural Development Council from each area would be formed.

The council would formulate plans for community improvement projects subject to the approval of the director of the Rural Development Agency, who would be appointed by the Governor, and approved by the Legislature.

The bill, Don Wright charged, is creating a State Bureau of Indian Affairs.

If money is being put up for rural areas, then they should be able to use it as they see fit, he added.

Objections were raised to setting up rural councils in areas where native councils are already operating.

Let the funds be administered on a regional native organization

## Anthropologist Says Villages Far from Disappearing

COLLEGE—A recent study by a University of Alaska anthropologist indicates that a popular notion that rural villages are disappearing is not true.

Evidence which shows that the villages, with some exceptions, are maintaining their present population and in some cases are growing, was published recently by Dr. Arthur E. Hippler, associate professor of anthropology at the Institute of Social, Economic, and Government Research.

His work entitled "Barrow and Kotzebue: An Exploratory Comparison of Acculturation and Education in Two Large Northwestern Alaska Villages" was published by the University of Minnesota.

Hippler said the birth rate and improvements in health to extend life-span have maintained population levels even though a substantial number of persons leave villages every year.

"Hooper Bay now has about 600 people, a lot for a rural village," Hippler said. "Emangak and Alakanuk have about 450 people. Pt. Hope still has about 350 people even though there is a tremendous out-migration from there."

He said both Barrow and Kotzebue have Native populations of about 2,000 and that continued in-migration from other villages has created some social problems.

He said that often persons coming into a village such as Barrow and Kotzebue are not prepared to adapt from an essentially subsistence life to a cash economy and a foreign culture.

"This raises the issue of the quality of life," he said, "and it's inadequate in about every way you want to look at it."

"For example: For the last two or three generations the Natives have been told they were stupid and backward and that they should try to become like whites.

"This has created social pressures and pathologies. We know that a teacher's attitude determines what happens to a child. And there is no question that not all of the teachers who come to Alaska are suited for their jobs, and that some are basically prejudiced against natives.

"There is already an established aura of failure among Eskimos concerning what they can accomplish and it continues to grow because of white attitudes toward natives. Even though there is no overt racism apparent

that knows the problems and have been working on them for a long time, one member said.

Not only natives, but everybody in the area would benefit, he added.

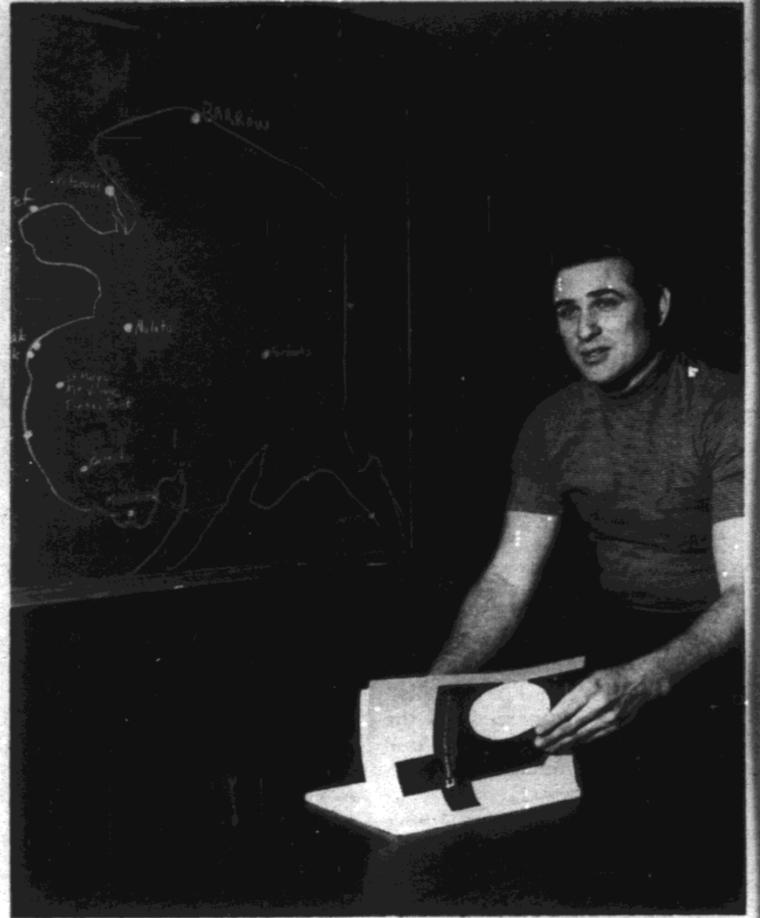
"You're going to set up so many levels of government that we'll never know what the others

## Alaska's Average Employment For 1969 Breaks All Time Record

JUNEAU—Preliminary reports show that Alaska's average employment for 1969 was a record breaking 100,000, Governor Keith H. Miller announced this week.

The Governor said this was the first time in the State's history that average annual employment was expected to reach the 100,000 level. The previous high year was 1968, when 91,000 was recorded.

"The nearly 10 per cent growth in employment in one year is particularly significant be-



TALE OF TWO VILLAGES—Dr. Arthur E. Hippler, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Alaska, discusses his work on a study of Barrow and Kotzebue published recently by the University of Minnesota.

in most cases whites continue to make natives feel uncomfortable and inadequate by patronizing them.

"These people have had to adopt a whole new set of values to try and integrate into the white way of life. Some of the older ones not only don't know how to explain to their kids how to prepare for the white world, but if they did it's not the custom for them to bully their kids. A generation conflict based on different perceptions is hard to avoid."

Hippler said there has been continual disagreement over the last few years about what should be done and who should do it but he does see some clear cut areas for improvements.

"We need to teach literacy in the Native tongue," he said. "This has both pedagogical and psychological advantages.

"There needs to be some coordination among the different agency programs to effect economic impact and stop the boom-bust cycles such as have always

are doing," another member said.

Other matters under discussion include the restructuring of the AFN, but no action was taken on this matter by the end of the morning session. Committee reports were also to be given before the meeting adjourned this afternoon.

persisted at Barrow. "Education remains the central issue. What's terribly important is the way members of the dominant culture feel about natives, how they teach them and to what ends."

## Tosses Hat

(Continued from page 1)

kan educators are among the finest in America today," he said, "but the rapid growth of our population is bound to have its effect. Our students deserve the best we can possibly offer in both teachers and schools. They are really the state's number one resource."

The senior senator for Alaska pointed to his efforts on behalf of teachers and schools as a state legislator, and said his interest has been intensified since his service in Washington.

"We are on the threshold of broad new opportunities for improving the quality of education," Stevens said, adding that federal help can be of great importance.

"I am close to the situation at the federal level, and I intend to intensify my efforts to see that Alaskans share in these benefits," Stevens said.

He stressed in particular the need for increased federal funding for rural Alaskan schools.

"I will not be happy until every child in Alaska, regardless of his circumstances or where he lives, has an equal opportunity to obtain a good education," he said.

Stevens, who is regarded as one of the most active members of the Senate, demonstrated his interest in encouraging student achievement earlier this month when he launched a program in conjunction with Alaska high schools to present Certificates of Merit to those students who earn superior scholastic records.

Following his announcement of candidacy, Stevens said that he had appointed Connel Murray of Anchorage and Robert Pickrell of Ketchikan, to handle his advertising and public relations for the campaign.