

# TCC Summary...

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He also stated that "Public Law 538 will further Indian self determination by allowing Indian organizations throughout the country" to contract and carry out programs that are normally delivered by the government.

The main purpose of the act is to strengthen the tribal government, and the local government.

In closing he asked the question, "Are we changing too fast? There are more suicides in Alaska than anywhere else in America... most of them in our own Native people. Alcoholism, Culture. Change is inevitable but we need more interest generated on the village level."

Mike Harper, deputy commissioner of Community and Regional Affairs for the State of Alaska discussed Senate Bill 35 that pertains to the decentralizing of state operated schools in the unorganized borough.

He said that his department would like to emphasize that their only responsibility is to draw the boundaries. The major responsibility lies within the Department of Education.

The bill was signed on June 4, 1975. On June 15, a package was sent to the villages containing a copy of the bill, a map, and a summary of the first draft of the tentative boundaries.

"If we decide the boundaries on or around Nov. 1, it will be 16-90 days later that the election for regional school board will be held."

He went on to say that "in January or February the regional districts will choose school board members that will begin training before a superintendent is hired."

Frank Berry, director of Johnson O'Malley Program at AFN said, "We see Johnson O'Malley as not only supplemental and necessary for the Alaska Native student, but we see it as an excellent opportunity for providing technical assistance out in the regions."

He went on to say, "We do have a staff geared up this year so that they will be actually traveling throughout the state. We will have 80 people under Johnson O'Malley that will go out and lend technical assistance in the villages."

Johnson O'Malley has been run by AFN for three years. Now the emphasis is being moved to the local level so that the people of the village can have a say in the activities of their children through education.

Jerry Smetzer, director of the Town and Village Association (TVA) talked about the Transportation and Development Program designed to improve local service roads within the villages.

He said that he would like to emphasize that the program concerns improvements in roads within the village and not between the villages."

Road construction has already begun in Tok, Arctic Village, Eagle, Allakaket, and Hughes, according to Smetzer.

Melvin Charlie, president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, discussed problems with telecommunications between the villages.

He said that "an RCA representative presented a letter to Sen. John Sackett of Galena, saying that the villages were not paying their phone bills. Charlie said that this was because the telephones didn't work."

Previously the Office of Telecommunications has not been responsive to the needs of the people, however, with the hiring of a new director and deputy director, Charlie feels that the office will be more responsive to the problems of the Native people.

Also speaking at the conference were the two opposing gas companies—Arctic Gas and El Paso.

Dave Harbour, director of public affairs for Alaskan Arctic Gas Pipeline, described the benefits of the Arctic Gas proposal.

He said that "there is a greater accessibility to the markets, the price of construction is cheaper than by tanker, and there is a greater conservation of energy than through the all-Alaskan route."

Harbour also stated that "the pipe would be buried underground. There would be no permanent roads. Construction would be done only during the winter. Grass would be planted over the pipeline as to not disturb caribou migration, so there would be no substantial effect on caribou migration or any other form of wildlife."

Mike Holland, the representative of El Paso Alaska, emphasized that the Alaskan route would create employment for Alaskans both during construction and during its operational life. Through this

## Would Extinguish. .

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when the federal government is supposed to be acting as trustee for the Natives in prosecuting trespass actions."

The Edwardsen versus Morton U.S. District Court decision held that the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act did not extinguish trespass claims concerning activities on Native land prior to the act.

Under that decision, the Justice Department, as trustees for Arctic Slope Natives earlier this month filed a trespass suit against 125 defendants including the state and major oil companies.

Until Ford's intervention, legislation sponsored by Stevens to clarify Congressional intent in extinguishing aboriginal claims appeared to be languishing.

Kito spoke to the Alaska Press Club earlier Tuesday about the issue.

The state and oil companies involved in the trespass case could prejudice the case against themselves if they try and fail to achieve a legislative solution to the issue, Kito said.

Allegations by the governor that the Edwardsen decision will lead to divisive litigation and will impede progress in the state are untrue, the Native leader said. The public has only been presented with the positive side of proposed legislation, Kito contends.

If an attempt to pass such a bill fails, "it is our belief that this would affirm the Edwardsen decision that Congress did not take care of trespass claims... and put the state further in the hole," Kito said.

Even if the bill passed, the Alaska Native leader has been assured that it would be challenged in court as a violation of the Fifth Amendment, which

## Senator Gravel Says—

# Speed Up Gas Pipeline

WASHINGTON — Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, introduced legislation Oct. 9 to speed construction of a natural gas pipeline from Alaska's North Slope by requiring all federal agencies involved in the decision-making to act by next June 30.

Unless Congress disapproves the Federal Power Commission decision on competing applications for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate a natural

system Alaska would receive 12 percent royalties.

Claude Dermentieff of the Tanana Chiefs Conference had this to say about the building of the gas pipeline: "In Canada there is the same kind of country, the same kind of Native people. They are our brothers over there."

"I see the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. I see the Native people having more money in their pockets to buy booze because they have nothing else to do because all the animals have split for higher ground because of construction and because of more people."

"It seems like with all the things going on in this country that a pipeline coming through the North American Continent is going to destroy the whole American country."

gas pipeline, the project would go forward.

Gravel said in a statement accompanying his bill that, "this matter is of crucial importance to our effort to become energy independent. Congressional involvement of this sort is proper."

The bill would substitute congressional review of the pipeline project for judicial review.

The Federal Power Commission would be required to reach a final decision within the stipulated time, on the pipeline route applications of the Alaska Arctic

Gas Pipeline Co., to build a pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to the Mackenzie Delta and down through Canada; and the El Paso Alaska Co., to construct a gas pipeline parallel to the present oil pipeline.

The bill provides the Congressional authority for the Interior Secretary and other appropriate federal officials to issue rights-of-way permits, leases and other authorizations necessary for or related to the construction, operation and maintenance of the gas pipeline on or before June 30, 1976.

## Annual Banquet . . .

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Kemper, Daphne Gustafson, Chris Anderson and others, and we sure had a good working committee."

Mary Jane said she has already received a lot of compliments on everyone working as a group and a lot of people offering their help in putting on the banquet and the special cocktail hour.

"It made you feel good because it was the effort of lots of people, not just local people but people from back home who offered their time. We accepted their offer and we're thankful," concluded Mary Jane.

The activities during the feast went merrily along where everyone enjoyed himself and laughed all the way through, thanks to the superb offerings of the former president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., Roger Lang.

"That man is fantastic as a master of ceremonies," someone remarked.

And an Eskimo ceremonial drum auctioned off for the price of \$1,000 and it was acquired by Fred Notti for the Calista Corporation of the southwest region.

And an Eskimo ceremonial pipe carved out of ivory and ebony by Ron Brower of Barrow sold for \$950. The highest bid for the pipe was offered by Alec John of Cantwell, a member of the Ahnta Corporation.

"No one else could do that except Sam Kito," said someone.

Sam Kito is the present president of the AFN, Inc.

Ex-president of the AFN, Inc., Roger Lang and Emil Notti, director of the Alaska Native Foundation based in Anchorage shared the Alaskan of the Year award for the AFN, Inc.

And the "Permafrost Trio" that performed for the dance after the banquet?

"That group sounds professional," remarked a bystander.

That trio performed very well

indeed with scores of people dancing to their offerings of rock, waltzes and other dancing tunes.

None of the congressional delegation attended the banquet. It was the first time that none came since the beginning of the Tundra Times banquet series.

Governor Jay Hammond of the State attended the dinner and gave a brief talk.

Bill Byler of the Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc., of New York who was to be one of the honored guests was unable to attend because of pressing work on water rights of the Lower 48 Natives.

A first time award was given by the Tundra Times to Lael Morgan who was completely surprised by the honor. It was offered by the newspaper to a person who had performed in the past promoting the TT in the way of public relations and through articles. She is presently an associate editor for the Alaska Magazine.

Through mist of tears, Lael reacted, "You people in the Tundra Times are something else."

At the special cocktail party, which was well attended, Pete Peterson of Dawson & Alaska, Inc. of Juneau office won the door prize of a beautiful parka sewn by Olive Anderson of Fairbanks.

Tasty tidbits of muktuk, dried fish, smokes salmon and other Native delicacies were served at the cocktail party. Some Native people attended the party and took delight in eating the morsels.

The board of directors of the Tundra Times is already eyeing the next banquet of the Tundra Times and with the encouraging experience it had this year, the next one is sure to be another smooth-running affair.

The Tundra Times and its staff want to offer their sincere thanks to everyone who has been so helpful during the preparation for the annual banquet.

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