

Last Ditch Effort To Save Bush Housing Program

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW
Staff Writer

Housing in bush Alaska is very likely to get much worse before it gets any better. At

present it is a huge can of worms, tied in with difficult and high-cost water and sewer treatment problems.

The death of the President's Indian Housing Program, of the HUD projects for Alaska, of the

AFN Housing Authority, and of various hopeful starts on housing on the part of Native regional corporations, all combine to foreshadow nothing less than a disaster in Alaska housing.

In this harsh climate shelter

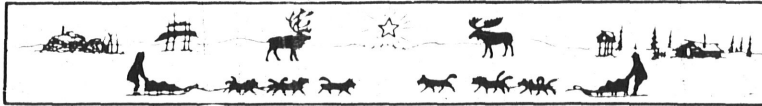
means survival. Unsanitary, poorly heated houses mean high infant mortality rates (25 per cent as compared to 6 per cent for the rest of the U.S.), disease, illness, and loss of work.

A study made in 1968 es-

timated that Alaska needed no fewer than 8000 units of housing to alleviate critical shortage in remote areas and Native villages. There have been only about 1000 built.

(Continued on page 6)

Tundra Times



Inupiat Eat a People's Housing

Don Neri Hensley Our Land Speaks

Unimpaired Tundra The Alerts Speak

Vol. 10, No. 5

We Tuesday, January 31, 1973

Fairbanks, Alaska

NOTTI KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN

Candidate Pledges To Fight Cutbacks

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW
Staff Writer

Opening the "Interior Alaskans for Notti" headquarters Monday, January 29, Emil Notti named former state senator Ed Merdes his Fairbanks campaign chairman in that city.

Beginning what he called a short campaign, only five weeks from election, Notti plunged into the central issues separating him from his Republican opponent, Don Young of Ft. Yukon.

A former Chairman of the State's Democratic Party, Notti strongly supports his party's goals and sees party alliance as a decisive factor in the election.

"The main issue of the campaign," said Notti in an exclusive interview with the Tundra Times, "is who best represent Alaska's interests in Congress over the next couple of years."

"Congress is controlled by the Democratic party. It controls the floor business, appropriations, committee assignments, and committee business. I think Nick Begich showed what a freshman Congressman can do if he has the cooperation and interest of the leadership of Congress."

Notti is banking on his four years of lobbying experience in the Capitol when he led the fight for a Native Land Claims Settlement. "I know how business moves through Congress. I know them, and they know me."

Notti commented on the recent cut-backs by the Nixon administration. Among the programs vetoed by the President, he cited flood control projects, work programs, airport development, mining and research centers, Indian housing, centers and homes for the elderly of America, highways, and water pollution.

"These are people programs," he said, "all important to Alaska. The President is trying to cool down the economy at the expense of the working man. I don't think that's the way to go."

(Continued on page 6)



CANDIDATE ON THE GO — Emil Notti, the Democratic choice for the Congressional seat, mingles with voters at the opening of his Fairbanks campaign headquarters.

Photo by FRANK MURPHY

Degnan Blasts 'Fink' Democrats

A rural lawmaker has charged that Anchorage Rep. Dick McVeigh was primarily responsible for handing the Alaska State House to Republican control, and effectively freezing out the bush and almost every other area of the state.

Degnan said McVeigh was a publically declared opponent of any bush leadership very early in organization, and further charged that McVeigh had been working with Republicans to engineer a Republican leadership before the November election.

The veteran rural lawmaker said that the present Republican McVeigh House has granted positions of leadership and power only to the Anchorage-Southcentral areas. "In addition," Degnan said, "conditions are almost as bad in the State Senate."

Degnan pointed out that virtually no key position now stands in the way of a capital

(Continued on page 6)

State To Drop Village Schools?

Hensley And Sackett Call For Guarantees

Alaska Natives who have been held off at arm's length for so many years on so many issues are suddenly having everything dropped in their laps all at once. The latest drop is the entire rural school system.

Commissioner of Education, Marshall L. Lind, has recommended to the state legislature a total phase-out of the entire State Operated Schools, placing

rural schools under the jurisdiction of local school districts, contracting the state boarding home program to Native regional corporations, and transferring military base schools to nearby boroughs.

Lind proposes abolishing SOS by July 1, suggesting that areas which do not now have school districts be organized along geographic lines in units of six to nine villages.

State Senator John Sackett is in favor of the transitional turnover, as long as there is no loss

of state funds.

"Commissioner Lind has presented one concept of how to regionalize and how to get local control," said Sackett. "There are other concepts to be considered, in particular one that is being put forth by myself, Senator Willie Hensley, and others."

Sackett and Hensley's plan differs in the amount of "leeway given, of flexibility."

"A single village may wish to take over the school completely."

(Continued on page 6)



NEW EDITOR — Nancy Gray, editor of the Uqalunich Inupiat, demonstrates her camera technique while visiting the Tundra Times.

— Photo by FRANK MURPHY

Newspaper Born In Barrow

The hardy people of the North Slope who fought for and won borough government have a new voice.

January 22, 1973, saw the advent of Uqalunich Inupiat, a fledgling newspaper of the Eskimo

people, published at Barrow.

The first edition promises to the people of Barrow, Kaktovik, Point Hope, Wainwright and Anaktuvuk Pass their own communication system.

(Continued on Page 6)

Olympics Queen At Nixon Breakfast

Miss World Eskimo Olympics will attend the President's 21st Annual National Prayer Breakfast on February 1st in Washington, D.C.

Helen Andon, 19 year old sophomore at Arctic Bible Institute in Palmer, Alaska, has flown to Washington at the invitation of Jim Thomas and the Friday Morning Indian Prayer Breakfast Group.

The annual National Prayer Breakfast, with the President of

(Continued on page 10)

She Said 'YES' And You Didn't Hear

A week-long Hearing Workshop was held in Fairbanks last week in spite of -50 degree weather. Although several villages were unable to make it in because of the severe weather, a plane load arrived from Barrow and Wainwright one day late, after they were forced to overnight in Anchorage.

The new program is a step forward over the days when villagers were tested in the

villages and mailed a hearing and at some later date without having anyone check the apparatus, how it fit, and give pointers on its use.

Under the joint sponsorship of the State's Vocational Rehabilitation and the Satellite Project, villagers are now being brought to Fairbanks, custom-fitted with an aid that will best suit their needs, and given in-

(Continued on page 6)