

Notti Kicks Off Campaign...

Native Or Non - Native Is Not The Question

(Continued from page 1)

deal with inflation."

Notti feels that Alaskans have not yet felt the full impact of the President's cuts. "Alaska lost \$16 million in Title IV funds alone. The whole Alaskan economy will be hit. Without the cooperation of the majority party in Congress, Alaska is going to get hurt."

Notti suggested that the best solution to the present situation is to restore some of that money in federal programs, and he maintains this will only be done by moving legislation through a Democratic Congress.

Refusing to be cast as the "native" candidate, Notti asserts that he is the Democratic candidate. "The question is my ability," he said. "If I'm elected, I'll be elected by the people of Alaska. As a Congressman, I'll be duty-bound to represent everybody in Alaska. What's important is if I can do things for Alaska, not whether I'm Native or non-Native."

Notti no longer sees the Native Land Claims as a major issue. "I think the emphasis has shifted from between Native and State, to between State and federal." There are

now 45 million acres of overlap according to Notti, in state and federal land interests.

A decision for or against the pipeline he also sees as a thing of the past. "I think we can no longer say, if it is built, but when it is built. A lot of Alaska's economy is dependent on when the pipeline moves. The main area of concern at this time is minimizing the impact on the environment."

Notti places high on his list of priorities the fishing industry of Alaska. "The Law of the Seas Commission which will meet in Geneva will focus a great deal of attention on fisheries," he said.

"Alaska has most of the coastline of the United States and the continental shelf. It is important that Alaska's voice be heard in the next commission meeting."

Notti favors maintaining the abstention line. "If we give up the abstention line," he stated, "we will find foreign fishermen in the Gulf of Alaska."

Notti is hopeful that the international meeting will support control of anadromous fish, those which return to

fresh-water rivers from salt seas for spawning, such as salmon and steelhead.

"It is not fair for the state of Alaska to foot the bill for research, control, protection, and hatcheries, and have these fish caught on the high seas." Notti's position is that anadromous fish belong to the country of origin.

On another international issue, Notti commented briefly on the proposed formation of an Arctic Community announced by President Nixon and Russia's Bresnev.

"If Nixon intends to pursue an Arctic Policy, Alaska would have to play a major role. There is no other Arctic under U.S. control other than Alaska. I would hate to see bureaucrats who know nothing about Alaska start dealing on the world scene without strong Alaska influence. I would insist that Alaska be heard."

Emil Notti is confident he is the man to see that Alaska is heard in Washington, D.C., whether the issue is pipeline, Native Land Claims, fisheries, or Arctic community.

State To Drop --

(Continued from page 1)

without combining with other villages," he stated. "Some villages are more capable, some are larger. On the other hand, you shouldn't force local control if it isn't desired."

"We are researching to guarantee that the funding be granted in the same manner that existing districts are now funded. We've always depended on yearly appropriations by the legislature. What we want to do is set it up so that each administrative unit will get a number of dollars and a stated amount of subsidizing by federal funding."

Sackett said that although the concept of transfer through transitional school districts is to begin on July 1, it will not be fully accomplished until 1975.

"Getting local control," he said, "is part of the entire process of self-determination."

Tanana Chiefs' Executive Director, Sam Kito, was recently elected to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board. Commenting on Commissioner Lind's announcement, Kito said, "There has to be some reorganization within the state system. I'm not sure, however, that we

should have the development of districts that are either too large or too small. So there needs to be some thought given to the size of these districts."

Although bush legislators have been clamoring for a long time for local control, it has been only recently that SOS has promoted local involvement and local advisory boards.

Some leaders have expressed concern at the time-frame for the village-level take-over.

Sam Kito, however, was optimistic. "I think if you have policy-making boards in the villages, there is always time for education."

On February 16, John Sackett will conduct hearings in Fairbanks on the transfer of SOS. The hearings will cover three main points: (1) transferring military schools from SOS operation to existing borough school boards; (2) teacher tenure and the evaluation of teachers; and (3) transfer of schools from SOS to newly formed local school districts.

Lowell Thomas, Jr. will hold hearings simultaneously in Anchorage covering the same three points.

She Said 'YES' And...

(Continued from page 1)

struction on care and maintenance, on lip-reading, and on all aspects of how they can increase hearing ability.

Audiology supervisor John Devens said the success ratio is much increased when this method is used over the old "hearing-aid-in-the-mail" method. He related a typical example of a patient who had been air-mailed a hearing aid in a padded brown package.

Through a clerical fluke, the package contained an earmold only and no other parts. The confused patient began to wear the mold, thinking it was a complete hearing aid.

Strangely enough, other people seeing the ear piece began to speak more loudly and for a time, the patient thought his hearing IAD actually improved. In time, a kind friend took a closer look and discovered the problem.

This time, coming to the Workshop, there would be no

mistakes. Not only would he be fitted with the right (and complete) hearing aid for his needs, he would receive hours of instruction and counseling on its use.

Although Alaska's villagers suffer from a far greater ratio of hearing loss than a comparable number of lower-48'ers, the use of hearing aids has never been widely accepted in the past.

Devens is conducting an intensive education campaign to correct this long neglected area through the Communications, Satellite Project. Of all the multiple uses to which satellite radio has been put in Alaska, perhaps none are more innovative than Devens.

A group of villagers treated at the Workshop last June will communicate with Devens this week on how the hearing aids are working for them and what problems, if any, they are having. In communities scattered over

northern Alaska, they will ask questions which Devens can answer on the spot through two-way communication.

The staff at the Workshop are hopeful that not only will hearing aids help those people brought in but that, returning to the villages, the people helped will act as "public relations", encouraging others with hearing problems to try the program.

Several factors contribute to the high loss of hearing statistics in Alaska. Foremost is a high incidence of otitis media, chronic ear infections in young children.

Every village mother is urged to seek medical help at any sign of ear problems within the family. Prompt medical attention can prevent heartbreaking loss of hearing in the future.

While a certain loss of hearing is normal in most elderly people, in Alaska the loss is more severe. And because the elderly are not eligible for vocational rehabilitation, funds for hearing aids for older persons are difficult to come by under the present programs.

The Workshop has solved

(Continued on page 10)

Last Ditch Effort...

(Continued from page 1)

By U.S. standards 600 cubic feet of space per person is considered overcrowded. The average in Alaska's villages is 360 cubic feet.

In light of these statistics it is difficult to see how the administration could sink all ongoing programs and offer no immediate alternatives.

To throw the burden onto the state of Alaska or, as some suggest, onto the Native regional corporations themselves (who are assumed to have limitless supplies of monies) is to abrogate a pledge and a responsibility.

"They made us many promises," ... and it would seem the United States government is as agile as ever at ducking promises.

The United States Congress failed first of all to continue funding of a housing program originated by the late Senator Bob Bartlett and enacted as the Bartlett Act of 1966.

More recently, the federal government reneged on promises made in an announcement April 1971. Republican Senator Ted Stevens and AFN President Don Wright jointly announced the administration's broad new housing program. It was to be a replacement for and an improvement over the "Bartlett plan. 1200 units of housing per year for five years were scheduled to be built. Not one house was ever built under this plan, although hundreds of thousands of dollars of planning money went "down the tube."

Not only did AFN lose valuable planning money but in many cases the Public Health Service drew up tentative plans for accompanying water and sewer. No one knows the exact amount of dollars lost in this fiasco.

Many of the new Native regional corporations set up housing offices to work with either ASHA or AFN Housing Authority and also expended money which has not been, nor is likely to be reimbursed.

ASHA is now attempting to utilize money available through the sale of state bonds which originated when the state picked up the program the US Congress had abandoned.

Senator John Sackett (R-Galena) has forwarded to the Tundra Times the complete text of ASHA's proposal which can only be viewed as a stop-gap measure and not a complete answer to Alaska's critical needs by any means.

The ASHA proposal is founded on the concept of mutual help, which "has one serious flaw." This flaw, says ASHA, is "that the best time for the participant to donate his labor on the house is also the season when he has the only opportunity of the year to earn what little cash he can to survive in the winter."

ASHA suggests a new approach, one that will use local labor but on a paid basis. It also recommends the use of the financial resources of the Native regional and village corporations.

ASHA would provide the grant portion and construction funds. The regional corporation would match this with a minimum of 25 per cent. This would provide the loan portion of the housing costs. The regional corporation would set the interest rate and handle all collections and it is even suggested that the village corporations could eventually assume the funding and management.

ASHA feels that if the "home owner is making his payments directly to his own village council rather than to a far off government agency, his sense of responsibility will be greater."

At this point in time, the village corporate entities are only beginning the process of formal organization. They have ahead of them the enormous responsibilities of the Land Claims Settlement, and the massive job of land selection. Add to this the fact that much of the top village leadership has been pulled off to the regional corporations, and it would seem unrealistic to expect that this transition to management of a housing program at which the federal government failed can succeed at the village level.

Nearly every housing program initiated since 1966 has failed to meet the quotas so desperately needed in rural Alaska. ASHA's current proposal will answer only one small segment of that need.

Degnan Blasts...

(Continued from page 1)

move bill, or a dramatic shift of the University of Alaska emphasis to Anchorage.

"My point is," Degnan said, "Fin' and McVeigh have not just washed out the rural bush areas, but also effectively all areas outside the Anchorage/Southcentral region."

Degnan cited that in the House Anchorage/Southcentral controls the speakership, the Rules Chairmanship, the Finance Chairmanship, the majority of the Finance Committee, the chairmanship of the Legislative Council, as well as other key committees.

"Southeastern received the majority leadership, but that position has no inherent power," Degnan pointed out.

Degnan stated that the proposed Democratic House had reflected regional balance in the key leadership positions, and that the dissident Democrats which ultimately went over to the Republicans had broken off negotiations within the Democratic caucus prematurely.

"We really had yet to reach the point of serious compromise," Degnan stated.

Degnan said that the present House organization is openly hostile to the needs of much of Alaska, and that the one chief concern of House Speaker Tom Fink and Finance Chairman Earl Hillstrand, is to cut funds, reduce funding of programs, and retaliate for their own opposition to the federal settlement of the Alaska native land claims.

"The Fink-Democrats have made a mockery of political parties, and are apparently serving notice that they wish the development of parties along the lines of Anchorage vs. the rest of the state."

"A certain amount of regionalism is natural," Degnan stated, and stressed that rural Democrats had supported such urban programs as Fairbanks flood control, southeastern waters and harbors, University of Alaska needs, urban state school support, and many others.

Barrow Newspaper...

(Continued from page 1)

The lead story of Emil Notti's candidacy parallels the strong growth of the Native movement throughout the state. Uqalunich Inupiat calls it "our coming of age."

Nancy Gray heads the paper as chief editor. Others on the staff are: Brenda Itta, Johnny Nusunginya, Sr., Dorcas Watson, Martha Aiken, Larry Ahvakana, and Raymond Neakok.

Borough Mayor Eben Hopson led off in this first issue with a message from the mayor's desk, outlining the borough's progress to date.

Those who thought the North Slope Borough would never become a reality, must now take into account not only its accomplishment but the new power of its communication system.