

GRAVEL ASKS ALASKA SHARE CANADIAN TELESAT

U.S. Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) took the Senate floor Monday to praise Canada's passage of the Telesat Act and urge the Canadians to share their satellite communications system

with Alaska.

He also announced what appears to be a major shift in U.S. policy which would permit Alaska to take advantage of the Canadian satellite system.

The Canadian parliament Friday adopted the Telesat Canada Act, which will provide satellite television and telephone communications to its remote Northwest sections.

"The fundamental significance of Telesat," Gravel said, "is that the Canadians are the first to do what others have been preaching: They will provide telephone and television service to remote

areas which by ordinary terrestrial means would wait a score of years for similar progress."

Gravel publicly congratulated the Canadian government in its
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Tundra Times

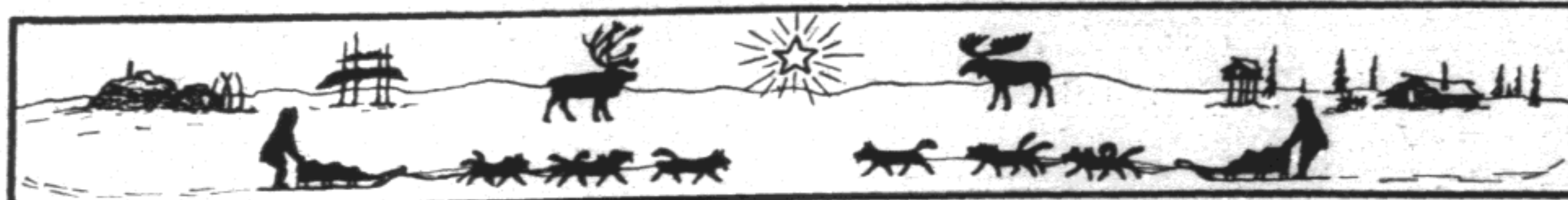
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Vol. 6, No. 180

Friday, June 20, 1969

VILLAGE STAGES FESTIVE RITE

Ancient Village of Pt. Hope Celebrates Its Old Whaling Tradition

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.
Staff Writer

Point Hope is an ancient Eskimo village located on the Northwest coast of Alaska, 130 miles north of the Arctic Circle. It is situated on a jutting peninsula, with the Bering Sea to the south and the Arctic Ocean to the north.

The village is so old that earlier sites have been discovered six feet below the tundra. For as long as Point Hope has existed, the men have hunted whales with their small and sturdy skin boats.

At the end of the whaling season, which usually begins in March or April and lasts through May, the villagers host three days of feasts and festivities in celebration for the success of the season.

As they have done for thousands of years, the people of Point Hope held a whale celebration in the year 1969. The biggest event of the year began on June 11 and continued for a period of three days.

Months of preparation were consumed by everyone in the

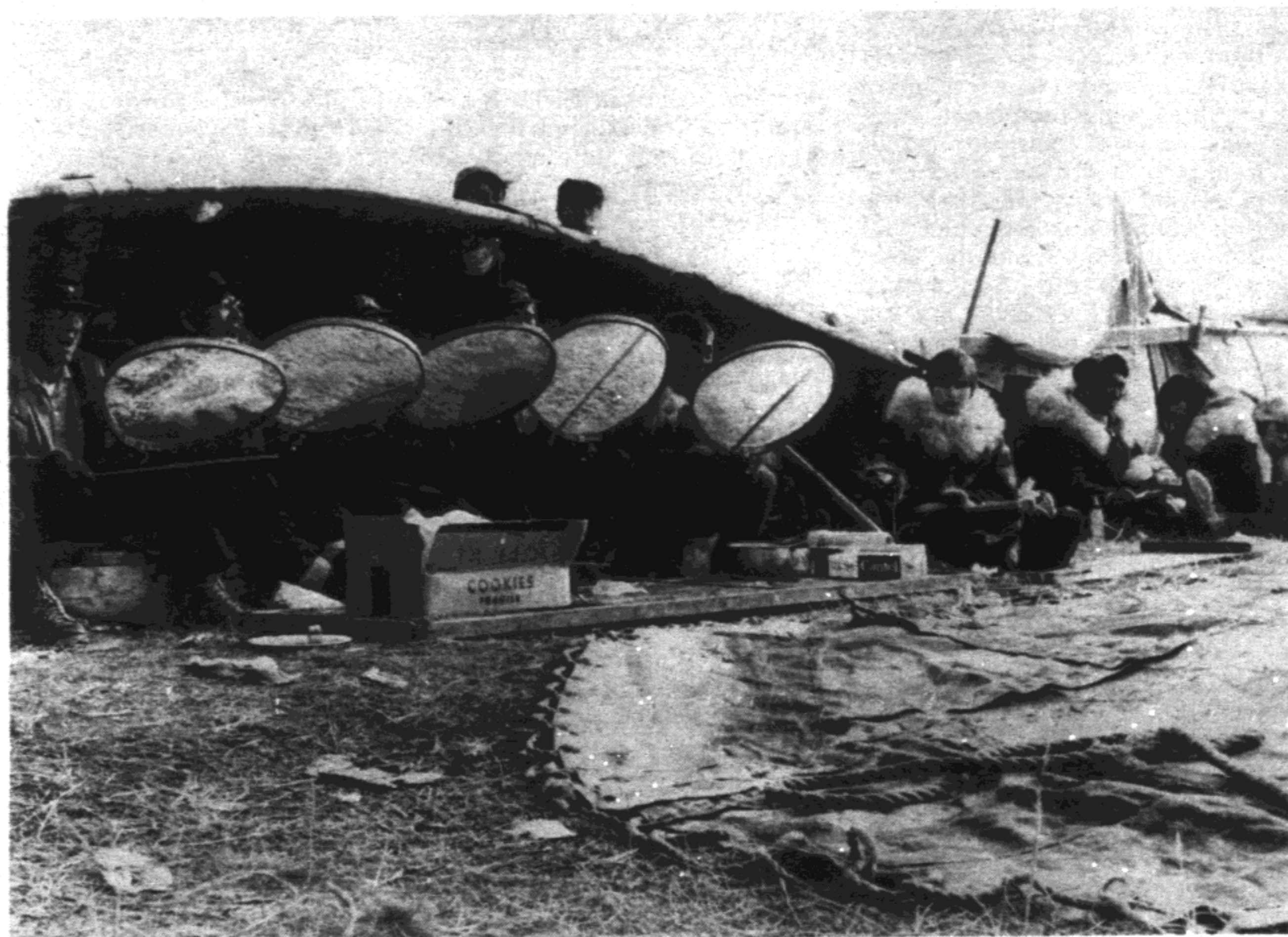
village for the celebration. New mukluks, mittens, and parkys were sewn by the women. The men had spent weeks camping on the ice flows and beaches in hunting the bowhead whale.

The whales were butchered. The bones had been scraped and cleaned. Muktuk and meat was prepared and preserved. No portion of the precious catch could be wasted.

This season, two crews had caught whales. Captain Allen Rock, brother of Times editor Howard Rock, killed two whales. Whaling Captain Amos Lane and his crew killed one whale.

The Point Hope whalers are divided into two rival groups, which engage in friendly com-

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BACKGROUND ATMOSPHERE—Venerable elders of Point Hope village are chanting and drumming the traditional whaling songs of the Oungasaksikaq whalers, or the south village portion. Its friendly whaling rivals, the Qaqmaq-tuuq, the north portion, has its own whaling celebration grounds. The Oungasaksikaq, Amos

Lane, caught a small whale last May and thus the celebration on his grounds. The nalukatuk, a circular oogruk or walrus skin blanket used to toss performers into the air by a circle of people, is traditionally placed in front of the elder singers and drummers.

—THOMAS RICHARDS, JR. Photograph

Land Bills in Trouble? Times' Reporter Tom Richards, Jr. Chosen Olympics Chairman

The Alaska Scouting Service, published in Anchorage by Petroleum Publications, reported Wednesday it has learned that bills to solve the native land claims are developing from several sources.

It further indicated that Congress is losing enthusiasm over achieving a comprehensive settlement. Sen. Ted Stevens informed the Scouting Service that Congress feels that the state should resolve the claims, considering the vast oil reserves which are predicted for Alaska.

The failure of the Departments of Defense and Agriculture to approve the bill proposed by the Department of the Interior is blamed on the tardiness of

Alaskan natives in presenting a formal position paper.

Stevens told the petroleum publication that a land bill can not be expected to reach the Senate before late September, after the North Slope oil and gas lease sale by the state.

It is thought that the interest of Congress in passing a land bill is beginning to dwindle. One House representative was reported as saying that a simple resolution should be passed by Congress to authorize natives to present their case before the U.S. Court of Claims.

The 1969 World Eskimo Olympics acquired a new chairman this week in the person of Thomas Richards, Jr., a talented and young reporter-photographer for the Tundra Times.

Richards wasted no time in getting a list of names for his as yet tentative Eskimo Olympics committee.

"You want to be a member of the committee?" he asked his boss Howard Rock, editor of the

Tundra Times. "They said you were a committee member last year."

The young man paused a moment and added: "I think I'll try to get my dad on the committee also."

The prospective committee lists as follows:

Guy Elliott, last year's Olympics chairman; Dorothy Perdue, Georgianna Lincoln, Wally Olson, Olive Anderson, Peggy Anderson,

Thomas Richards, Sr., Laura Bergt, and Howard Rock.

Richards said that the Seward Hall, the gold domed structure at the Alaskanland, has been reserved by the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce to stage this year's Olympics.

The dome was used last year. It can seat about 1,500. A large stage was built on the floor portion of the large circular building. Portable chairs were used to seat the audience.

Chairman Richards said he will be inviting performers for the Olympics in the very near future. These will include Barrow Eskimo dancers, some Indian dancers and other performers or contestants.

"It looks as if we will have to operate on a rather low budget," Tom Richards disclosed. "We will not be able to offer transportation but we will provide lodging and meals for those who come to perform."

Richards said he was interested in inviting the MacKenzie Drum Dancers from Inuvik, N.W.T. along with some con-

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Young Eskimo Needs Home

The Tundra Times has been informed by the State Welfare Department that a foster home is urgently needed for a 17-year old Eskimo boy. A home with some Eskimo background is preferred.

Interested parties are encouraged to call the State Welfare Office in Fairbanks, phone 452-1637.

Train: Pipeline Route Not Decided

Under-secretary Russell Train of the Department of the Interior reported last weekend that the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, a group of three oil companies, has submitted an application for routing an 800-mile pipeline across the State of Alaska.

"However, any report or implication that a decision on this application has been reached is premature and totally inaccurate," Under-secretary Train said. "I can give no indication at this time when a decision will be made."

The Under-secretary said that the application by Trans Alaska was received on June 10 by the Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage.

"The application will be subjected to very careful study in view of potential hazards to the environment and other problems which might be posed by the project," Train predicted. "In particular, we must consider the interests of Alaska's native citizens who may have established claims to portions of the pro-

posed route."

"All native claims," he added, "are currently before Congress for consideration. Any speculation that a pipeline decision has been reached by this department—or the nature of that decision—is without foundation."

Earlier in the week, news broke in Washington that the Interior Department intended to grant a right-of-way for the pipeline to the Trans Alaska Pipeline System but the news leak was apparently premature.