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Fairbanks, Alaska

'SONG OF THE GREAT LAND'

Sen. Hensley Supports El Paso Gas Line

State Sen. Willie Hensley of Kotzebue, who has announced his intention to be a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, placed himself firmly in support of a trans-Alaska natural gas pipeline recently.

Speaking to the Central District Democratic Convention in Fairbanks, Hensley said Alaska needs a trans-Alaska gas line.

"Such a line," he said, "could insure an orderly, controlled growth economy for all Alaskans."

Hensley said the proposed trans-Canadian line, on the other hand, would not provide service to Fairbanks and other Alaska cities, would not aid in the development of public, private, and Native lands, and would not provide energy resources to allow Anchorage and Fairbanks to mature their economies.

If the trans-Canada line is built, "How long will it be," he asked, "before Alaska will emerge from third world status? Is Alaska to continue as a colony, as only a supplier of raw materials, as only a treasure box for Japan, and the Lower 48?"

Hensley also questioned the validity of the figures publicized in support of the trans-Canada line. He said the stated 2,600-mile length of the line would take it only to the U.S.-Canadian border, when in fact it would have to extend 5,400 in order to carry gas into the homes of the Midwestern United States. Supporters of the trans-Canadian line claim the cost of the project would be \$5.6 billion, but Hensley said the final figure could be closely reckoned at \$8 billion.

Those in favor of the trans-Canadian line say it would produce gas for market 25 to 30 cents cheaper than a trans-Alaska line.

But Hensley said that is based on a maximum capacity of 4.5 billion cubic feet of gas per day, while 2.5 billion might be a more realistic figure to expect.

Hensley pointed out that Canada's Native land claims have yet to be settled. And he said that could mean a long delay in construction with severe consequences to Alaska's oil and gas based economy.

As the alternative, Hensley said we can opt for a trans-Alaska pipeline which would avoid the untouched Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and have the capacity to connect with other gas deposits elsewhere in the state.

Hensley said the trans-Alaska pipeline could provide fuel for Fairbanks and other Alaska cities. He said 600 permanent jobs would be created by the trans-Alaska route.

"How many will be created," he asked, "in a 300-mile stretch

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BARBARA PURDY

Senator Miller Irked—Opportunities Lost

JUNEAU — Irked by "opportunities lost" in the entire communications experience of Alaska, Senate President Terry Miller appointed a special senate committee on communications to upgrade the status of Alaskan communications.

"The state must take the lead rather than relegate itself to a passive role," Miller said. In a message to the Senators February 14.

"An imaginative state communications policy, dealing with the specialized needs of Alaska — must be formulated. It should be a priority of the Highest order for the state to encourage, and perhaps even participate in, new facilities construction which will increase our overall communications capabilities," the Fairbanks Republican said.

The four-member committee, chaired by Sen. John C. Sackett, R-Galena, with Sen. Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue, Jalmar Kerttula, D-Palmer and Miller as members was directed to investigate the status of present communications systems throughout the state, with emphasis on the areas of health care, education and services provided by the state to residents.

The committee was also directed to implement legislation and funding for communications services to all Alaskans.

What has emerged are two significant pieces of legislation — one providing for \$6 million in general obligation bonds for telecommunications equipment and the other creating the public communications commission.

State Senators in a near unanimous vote last week opted for the sorely needed telecommunication equipment purchase, along with the commission

expected to direct more funds and communications opportunities the way of Alaska public. Both bills are now before the House.

After the vote on these two important communications measures, Sackett rose, asked for the privilege of the floor and expressed his gratitude to the senators for their action.

"Living in a village of 150 to 200 people," the Galena Republican said, "I've known of too many cases where people have died because they couldn't get to a hospital or necessary means of communications." (For medical attention)

Kerttula commended the leadership of the senate president on the communications

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Two Young Alaskan Natives to Perform at D.C.'s Kennedy Center

(Special to the Tundra Times)

By BETZI WOODMAN

Two Alaska Methodist University students with Native background are helping to tell Alaska's story with word and music in the nation's capitol and on world-wide broadcast.

As members of the cast of the award-winning drama "Song of the Great Land,"

Barbara Purdy, Fairbanks-born, and Jim Dybdahl of Hoonah, will perform in three shows in Washington, D. C. this week. (April 15-20)

Because the original work written and directed by AMU's

matinee performance in the concert hall whose 2700 seats are sold out.

During the Kennedy performance, the show will be covered by Voice of America for both English and foreign language broadcasts.

That night the group will perform at the National Women's Democratic Club and on April 18 a special showing will be given in the Smithsonian Institution's prestigious Spencer F. Baird Auditorium in the Museum of Natural History Building.

Barbara, a junior at AMU majoring in geology and literature, is cast as a reader in the drama which is in the form of a symphonic tone poem.

Among the several parts she plays in this poetic history of Alaska is an Athabaskan girl in the moving love story with a worker on the Alcan. Barbara's own heritage has Athabaskan roots.

"I'm not much into theatre or drama," says the lovely tall brunette. "I'm not really interested, but this has just got to be the neatest thing I ever did. I never tried it before... it's wonderful what you can do with your voice."

As Barbara talks, animation lights her face with the same inspiring glow that makes her performance in "Song" so out-

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JIM DYBDAHL

drama professor Frank Brink was chosen one of the country's ten best productions in the American College Theatre Festival competition. "Song of the Great Land" appeared at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts April 16.

Senator Ted Stevens will welcome the audience to the

Borbridge Emerges Sealaska Pres.



JOHN BORBRIDGE

JUNEAU — John Borbridge Jr. has emerged as president and chairman of the board of Sealaska Corp. in the aftermath of a proxy battle which forced the first annual meeting of Sealaska into an extra day.

"I am pleased with the overwhelming support of the Sealaska Corp. Shareholders for management's slate of candidates," Borbridge said in a statement issued shortly after the meeting wound up Friday in Juneau's Taku Theater.

"The election of three candidates not on management's slate confirms the Democratic manner in which the election procedures at the meeting were conducted," he said.

The reference was to Chet Ross, John Hope and Nelson

Frank, elected to three, two and one year terms respectively along with 15 others on the management slate. Ross, Hope and Frank were backed by the dissident Fair Deal Association, which protested the manner in which proxies were solicited.

Also elected to three year terms were Marlene A. Johnson, Hoonah; Clarence Jackson, Sr., Kake; Kenneth Leask, Seattle; Byron L. Mallott; Douglas and Borbridge, a Juneau resident who has served as interim president and chairman of the board of Sealaska since July, 1972.

Elected to two year terms were Robert "Jeff" David, Sr., Haines; Aaron Isaacs, Jr., Craig; Mark Jacobs, Jr., Sitka; Leonard

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