

Support for Morris . . . Why Hensley's Resignation . . .

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equally by employees and co-workers. He has received the almost unanimous support of scores of Indian groups in Alaska and elsewhere," Gravel said.

In a report to the Tundra Times received at press time, Gravel reaffirmed his support of Thompson and added, "He offers the potential for reshaping efforts toward fulfilling the federal government's responsibility to American minorities."

His nomination comes at a time when the Bureau of Indian Affairs so desperately needs his kind of capable leadership."

A statement from Senator Ted Stevens was not received by press time, but Stevens was reported to remain confident that confirmation of Thompson could be expected soon. Stevens was quoted as saying that Thompson's experience and capabilities were clearly revealed during the hearings.

A member of the committee, Senator James Buckley of New York described Thompson as a man of "excellent caliber" and

indicated support for his confirmation.

Other sources close to the Interior Committee predicted that questions about Thompson's ability to protect the interests of non-resident Alaska Natives would be satisfactorily resolved and that Thompson would be confirmed.

U. S. Representative Don Young, a Republican congressman from Fort Yukon, spoke of Thompson's understanding of the traditional subsistence life style of Alaska Natives.

"As a trained engineer, technician and administrator, he also understands contemporary America and the processes by which our government functions," Young said.

"Some knowledgeable men scoffed when Thompson became the youngest area director in the bureau's history. Yet his performance in that demanding job — administering 55 schools, 1,200 employees, five offices and a 10,000 ton cargo ship — clearly demonstrated beyond any shadow of doubt that he was capable, fair and understanding," Young said.

Interior Secretary Rogers Morton described the nomination of Thompson as a "key step in assuring the constructive progress in helping our Indian citizens move forward."

"Morris Thompson . . . will bring to the Bureau of Indian Affairs the professional qualifications and leadership which are needed to meet the urgent challenges facing the Indian people today," Morton added.

Thompson, who returned to Juneau on Saturday from his hearings in Washington, commented briefly to the Tundra Times. "I answered the questions from the committee as best as I could. Now it is up to the committee," he said.

Alaska Plan

The U. S. Department of Labor today announced funding of \$25,000 to the Alaska Plan Policy Board for the hiring of a director.

The Alaska Plan, approved in 1972, is a comprehensive program to encourage and facilitate employment of minority group persons in building and construction trades in Alaska.

Allakaket Students . . .

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English and Athapaskan in their 7th and 8th grade classes said they would like to come to Fairbanks and learn more about the land claims. More than two months later, after another exchange of letters with Huntington, nine of the 13 students arrived in Fairbanks, with bilingual teacher Velma Simon.

The group included Sharon Sam Williams, Christine Williams, Sally Sam, Catherine Marie Hunzie, Emily Bergman, Valerie Williams, David David Jr., Rudy Moses and Morris Bergman.

They arrived on a Monday and after spending the day exploring the University of Alaska, where they bunked down, they called the Tanana Chiefs office and president Mitch Demientieff promptly assigned a riding home guidance counsellor Carol Drake to be their hostess for the week.

One of the things they liked most, when recalled later, was just getting to know Mitch. They really got a large charge out of Mitch. Demientieff and Tim Wallis, president of the DNH Development Corp., talked with the students in the Tanana Chiefs office. They also visited Doyon, Limited, meeting most of the staff there.

Hensley said, stem from a staff shortage and the reluctance of many regional Native groups to guide policy and assist with lobbying efforts.

While the federation employs 35 people on its current staff, most of these administer and operate service programs contracted to the organization for Native health, higher education, and the Johnson-O'Malley fund.

These contracts total over four million dollars and provide some revenue for the federation after payment of expenses for the programs. Although the organization was budgeted for 230 thousand dollars during the past year, Hensley said, "We have not paid the staff and the manpower to cover all bases."

With the increased amount of federal and state agencies, boards, and commissions giving attention to Native affairs, and the additional impact of impending pipeline construction and Native claims implementation, the AFN has been greatly taxed to present Native opinion on issues affecting the entire state.

Hensley said that the areas which will require maximum effort from the organization during the immediate future will be to ensure significant Native employment in pipeline construction and to protect subsistence rights for Natives living along the pipeline right of way.

He described figures mentioned by Alyeska Pipeline for Native employment as "simply not believable" and stated that the position of the AFN will call for "a minimum of at least four thousand Natives working on the pipeline."

The federation leader summed up his feelings about the pipeline in stating, "No one is aware of the full impact of the pipeline. It is going to be like a major invasion of the state."

Hensley predicted that the AFN will continue to regain much of the authority and unity it had prior to settlement of the Native claims and that Native people desire a stronger and more unified voice for Native affairs on a statewide level.

"The regional leadership has to keep in mind that any Native impact means some degree of

unity."

He added that eight of the twelve regional Alaska Native groups have already agreed to contribute to the new budget and that support from other regions would be forthcoming.

Hensley's resignation from the AFN presidency is expected to become effective during the first week of December. It is not yet clear who his replacement will be and speculation about his successor is likely to become intensified up until the beginning of the annual convention of the AFN in Anchorage on December 16.

"We need some one who will be on top of the issues and who will be able to exercise substantial leadership," Hensley said.

He observed that he was leaving office to allow the regional membership to decide what type of leadership they desire and to allow the AFN to work out new organizational and staffing arrangements.

One of the proposals which will be considered by the federation is to reorganize away from strict regional representation and to provide for individual Native membership, a situation similar to that under which the federation was organized in 1966.

There has been much speculation about Hensley's plans after leaving the AFN presidency. Many recent press accounts theorized that Hensley was resigning in order to put some distance between himself and Native affairs prior to making a bid for statewide office.

He denied that he felt burdened politically by his Native leadership responsibilities and said that he was stepping down merely to allow the membership to decide the future of the AFN.

Native Pre-History . . .

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they've unearthed to date goes only back to 400 B.C. but tools and settlement sites have been discovered that date back 11,000 years.

"The Athabascans cremated their dead. The Eskimos preserved theirs but, on the coast, bone material just doesn't keep well," Cook observed.

A settlement spot at Healy Lake is the oldest site of habitation found to date in Alaska, Dr. Cook reports.

"It was a hunting camp, but whether or not it was Athabaskan, who knows? That long ago it's hard to say. You can't really push linguistics back more than 4,000 years.

"The artifact type was different from anything else. The Healy site spear points are unique so far.

"About 8,000 years ago the climate changed quite a bit. This whole valley was treeless grassland, sort of like the northern prairie. It was probably not as high on caribou. More bison and horse and things like that."

The most unusual Alaskan find, so far, was excavation of an Ipiutak settlement at Point Hope in the early 1940s which produced mysterious traces of an unknown people dating back about 2,000 years.

In reviewing the dig recently, Froelich Rainey called the discovery an enigma, for the settlement was unusually large and its artifacts more imaginative and finely tooled than any others.

Skeletons had been preserved with handsomely carved ivory and jet eyes, nose and mouth pieces. And there were other carving — delicate ivory spirals

"It has been a whole lot of fun," he noted.

Hensley said that he remains undecided about his future political plans, but will not completely discount reports that he is interested in statewide office.

As for his immediate plans Hensley said, "I am going to take a brief vacation in the sun, and then go home to Kotzebue to get some material ready for the legislative session which will begin in January."

Vote for Land . .

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tion of the Interior to which they have traditional ties.

Doyon and the Tanana Chiefs had maintained a hands off attitude on the election, choosing to let the villages make their own decision at the village level, in accordance with area tradition.

As for the future business relationship of Arctic Village and Venetie with Doyon, "we don't know," said Doyon executive director Sam Kito. "That's something that has to be discussed."

"Our board has addressed the subject, but made no decisions yet. Now that the election is over, however, we will be addressing the matter again in the near future," he said.

Gambell . . .

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doing all types of medical needs.

Sea foods get plentiful in fall on the island and it was the same again this year at the shore — when the storms calm down.

that scientists have yet to learn the use of.

"But there is really not any area in the state that outshines any other," Dr. Cook maintains. And there are many untapped areas of the state that should hold clues to its history.

"Within the last 2,000 to 3,000 years you have to say the coastal regions in Eskimo and Aleut areas, but before that there are unusually rich areas in any pass like Anaktuvuk because that's where the caribou funneled through."

Because of safeguards in the Congressional Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities, Cook's department has been called in to check ancient settlement sites at Amchitka before atomic testing and along the route of the proposed Alaskan pipeline.

Both projects have unearthed valuable new data but provided more questions, too.

Other old sites may hold the answers but anthropologists worry that some of these may be carelessly destroyed before scientists ever get a chance to investigate them.

In several areas enterprising villagers have been digging artifacts which they sell to the highest bidders, and much historical material leaves the state.

"It's against the law but that doesn't stop anybody," Dr. Cook observed.

Dr. Cook is happy to report he has some native people studying anthropology this year.

"But not enough. I would like more to come into the program, but I know it's not a practical science."

LETTERS . . .

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in the Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co.

It is also my wish to offer any service I may be able to that will constructively assist (help) my People as a whole, or an individual person. If there is any help that you think I may be able to render please let me know and I will contribute to the best of my ability, and as far as rules of prison will permit I might add.

Once again, may you have everlasting health. In hoping to hear from you I remain

Very truly yours,
William A. A. Tahl

Nulato Indians Not Working

Nulato, Alaska
November 15, 1973

Dear Friend:

I read all the time when the pipeline go through they're going to hire Indians. There is a big job here and not one Indian is working, except me. Why? Can the AFN, Tanana Chiefs, Doyon, FNA, or the BIA do anything about it?

The school and the laundry is started here, about \$2 million job and it's going to stand there till spring. The carpenters got homesick, or love sick, so they blame the cold weather so they can go home which they did.

Just about everybody got moose meat here, even me. I don't need it and one moose is too much for me. I'm tired of moose anyway. I was raised on fish and berries, no vegetables.

But what would it be here if there was a road here? It will be like Anchorage and Fairbanks. I remember when I was in Anchorage, 1950, no Spenard. Fairbanks, no Northpole. Now there are houses, dogs, snow machines all over. I was forced out and quit a good job because there are too many people and too many GI's at Eielson. I couldn't work in the carpenter shop anymore. The GI's were arriving and the carpenter shop was getting full. I mean over crowded. Now when at the meeting, Jimmy Huntington was against the roads. Melvin Charlie, Richard Frank, Horace Biederman, all wanted road so they can run home on a weekend with nice fancy cars, just like White people. They think they are smart.

What would it be if there was a road down here. The White people will push us out. That's what they're doing up there.

Fred Stickman, Sr.