

## TCC Gets Back Barry Jackson

The Tanana Chiefs Conference began their annual meeting Thursday morning in the basement of the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce building.

In consideration of by-laws, the first order of business, the delegates approved changes which reapportioned representation in the Athabascan organization.

In striving to effect "one man, one vote," the delegates based population on a per capita basis. Under the old provisions, each village had one vote on the board of directors of the regional native organization.

Jackson agreed to continue as counsel on an informal basis, providing if a conflict should arise between the Conference and the six Interior native villages he represents, it be understood that his ultimate responsibility is to those villages.

The Tanana Chiefs, with objection to one provision, indicated they would approve the contract negotiated between the Alaska Federation of Natives and former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg.

Tanana Chiefs continue meeting through today. It is expected they will discuss preparations for House Hearings held in Fairbanks next week, the AFN Convention which was held last weekend in Anchorage, as well as attorney relations and contracts.

## Graphic Arts Book

"Graphic Arts of the Alaskan Eskimo" by Dorothy Jean Ray was published by the Interior Department's Arts and Crafts Board especially for the Tundra Times Banquet.

It has received early acclaim as the most comprehensive work of its kind and a fitting tribute to the Alaska Native artist.

Illustrated with 91 photographs, Graphic Arts covers Eskimo art as it was during early white exploration, how the influx of explorers changed that art, and contemporary application of Eskimo graphic forms.

The publication is now on sale and can be obtained by the public from the Tundra Times at a cost of \$1.00 per copy.

## Sadie Neakok . .

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thing more."

"I was so excited, I couldn't be myself any more after that," she added.

"This is how I got the invitation. I never expected anything this important to go over the phone," Mrs. Neakok said.

The Barrow Eskimo woman stated she was among three Alaska Natives invited to attend the White House Conference on nutrition and the high cost of living, scheduled for October 25 to 29.

"The President asked me if I had heard about his program on the high cost of living. I think he wants to bring the prices down," she stated.

Mrs. Neakok was asked if she would attend: "I have my duties but I just couldn't say no to the President. It was such an important call. It was such a responsibility."

The Barrow Eskimo woman now serves her people as district magistrate. She has an impressive and long record of fighting to better education among native youth.

Mrs. Neakok belongs to a well known Barrow family and is the daughter of the famed Charlie Brower.

Mrs. Neakok is one of two Alaska Natives invited to the White House Conference. Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, was also contacted by the White House and invited to attend.

# Committee Reception Planned by TCC, FNA

A reception in honor of visiting congressmen and their wives from the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs will be hosted in Fairbanks next week by the Fairbanks Native Association, and the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

The reception will be held Thursday, October 16, beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Gold Room of the Traveler's Inn.

Sam Kito, President of FNA, heralded the reception as an opportunity for Alaska Natives to meet informally with the congressmen and their wives. The event is particularly open to any Alaska Natives who would wish to attend.

Mrs. Georgiana Lincoln is chairman of the reception. Any persons interested in assisting her with arrangements or in making donations for the event are encouraged to contact her at 479-6716.

## Glitter at Banquet . .

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Dr. Walter Soboleff, in a dignified and eloquent manner so much evident in Alaskan natives, said the invocation.

Those present at the feast had much to be thankful for: 250 pounds of reindeer, 175 pounds of crab, and 300 pounds of king salmon were served.

The reindeer, provided by the Northwest Reindeer Processing Company, was accompanied by a crab salad, sent to Anchorage by the Kodiak Native Association.

Governor Miller, Senator Gravel, Senator Stevens, and Congressman Pollock made brief remarks. They addressed themselves to the role of the Tundra Times as a voice for the native peoples and urged that it be supported by natives and others interested in the native position.

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, now working on the land claims efforts with a team of lawyers from the Goldberg firm, told the crowd of the significance of the land issue not only to natives, but to all Alaskans.

He noted that the settlement would be the last opportunity for the federal government to show justice to native Americans.

Between speakers, the emcees were not without their share of witticisms. Jim Thomas, Secretary of the Tlingit and Haida Council, reflected on the Amchitka blast:

"We know the federal government is anxious to finish with the native land claims 'problem,' but did they have to place a nuclear warhead under the Aleuts?"

Keynote speaker Vincent Price began his speech with a warning that, with increasing leisure time, people will suffer boredom unless this time is put to constructive use.

Price stated members of a society should use their leisure time in enjoyment of their art and, in Alaska, specifically in enjoyment of the contributions of native artists.

He added that, in Alaska, the native artist depends on the tourist. The tourist, Price said, is more concerned with bringing home a souvenir rather than a piece of art.

He warned that Alaska now has "artist ghettos" and, unless Alaskans consider more the contributions of the native artists, these slums shall remain.

Price spoke of another kind of art which he called the "art of journalism." He said the Tundra Times, as a voice for Alaska Natives, has a point of view "that you don't read about in other papers."

He warned here too that, unless support is given, natives may lose this voice.

His speech was long, but so captured were the occupants of that ballroom by the unique narrative style that the only sound heard was the voice of Vincent Price.

After the noted actor and art

critic concluded his speech, emcee Sylvester Ayek kept the program moving: "We were going to ask Miss Eskimo World Olympics to surprise Mr. Price with a gift, but if we could ask Mrs. Laura Bergt to model the qiviut gown, we will have that later."

One of the highlights of the evening was the first viewing of a gown, woven by Katie Tootkaylok of Mekoryuk, on Nunivak Island.

The gown, valued at \$1,000, was an intricate ivory-colored tracing of musk ox qiviut over a gold sating underdress. The gown designed by Mrs. Lillian Schell, was complimented by a laced qiviut hood.

The ivory and gold theme was further enhanced with a necklace created by Ralph Perdue, of Ralph Perdue Jewelry in Fairbanks.

Asked to comment on the gown, famed musk ox expert Professor John Teal stated, "Laura would look good in a ten cent gown."

Mrs. Bergt brought a gift for Vincent Price. She presented him with a neck scarf woven from musk ox qiviut.

The keynote speaker was presented with another gift from Miss World Eskimo Olympics Marie Irwin.

Miss Irwin, from Nenana, wearing a crown of baleen and ivory, presented Mr. Price with the gift and was rewarded with a kiss.

Next on the agenda for the evening was an exhibition of the high kick, a traditional game described by Jim Thomas as the "Eskimo version of kicking the fuzz."

Sylvester Ayek issued a public challenge to Representative Willie Hensley of Kotzebue, which Hensley responded to eagerly and remarked, "Is anybody willing to put some money on this?"

The reply was, "Yes, two per cent."

The two competitors raised both feet into the air, kicking a rolled bar of fur. The ball was placed higher until neither could kick any longer, and the match was called a draw.

As the banquet came to its closing moments, Tundra Times comptroller Professor Jim Bedford took the podium to plug Tundra Times stock and to auction off banquet decorations, as well as Vincent Price's tie.

Carl Nelson, of Juneau, won the tie with a top bid of \$50. The tie was autographed by Mr. Price and presented to Nelson. This caused someone to later remark, "Fortunately for the Tundra Times, Bedford can sell anything."

It was indeed a successful evening. Not only was it successful for the Tundra Times; it was a time for those gathered in that room to pause, and to reflect on the contributions of the culture of Alaska Natives, to pay tribute to those contributions, and to signify their gratitude.

## SWEEPING AFN REFORMS . . .

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lose its vote on the board and only have one vote out of the 35 villages in the Tanana Chiefs Conference."

After lengthy discussion, the resolution was referred to a committee and ultimately to the full board of the AFN which met on Sunday.

Sunday afternoon, the board of directors approved the reforms. In keeping with the intent of legislation proposed by the Alaska Federation of Natives and introduced before the Senate by Senator Ted Stevens, the new board will consist of 12 members, representing the 12 major regional native associations.

The AFN will be incorporated by these directors.

The main speaker to the convention was former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who urged the AFN to prepare wisely for the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee's hearings in Alaska next week.

Clark told the native leaders Saturday morning that congressmen find it difficult to understand how native claims are justified.

Clark said they cannot understand how 70,000 Alaska Natives used and occupied nearly 400 million acres in 1800 and how 60,000 natives still use and occupy 80 million acres.

"40 million acres seems so immense to congressmen," he said. Clark described the House hearings as "the opportunity to show the truth."

"There are overwhelming reasons why you should be entitled to a half-billion dollars . . . 40 million acres, and a two per cent royalty," he stated.

"Yet unless you show them, they would be reluctant to believe it . . . It takes study, it takes thought, and it takes facts," he added.

"Your effort in the next 12 months will determine the welfare of your people for generations," Clark said.

"We as lawyers are proud to represent you . . . I am not at all proud of our history of dealing with native people," he said.

The former Attorney General indicated that there will be Senate floor action before the end of the year, and added: "In one year from today, the issue shall be determined, and then we will know whether justice has been done."

The reception given Ramsey Clark was enthusiastic, and later Saturday afternoon, was repeated for remarks given by Senator Mike Gravel.

Senator Gravel had praise for native leaders, who, in his words, "resisted serious attempts to undermine the native position."

He complimented AFN for securing "good legal counsel" from the Goldberg firm, but warned that "dangerous things" may yet threaten native efforts.

"I urge you to take the most extreme position," Gravel stated. He said he would back the native position "100 per cent."

Gravel indicated support of full native ownership of lands received in a settlement, as well as full native management of the proceeds from the land settlement.

The Senator said he would urge the continuation of the land freeze until the claims are settled.

Gravel was immediately followed by Congressman Howard W. Pollock who received a polite, if somewhat restrained, reception.

Pollock told the convention that there were items in land legislation which he did not agree with. "There are portions that I think every Alaskan will want reduced," he said.

Pollock said he was in disagreement with those who seek to involve the state in participation in native land claims. Pollock was queried several times regard-

ing his opposition to the two per cent royalty proposal.

"Are you in favor of the two per cent royalty?" asked one delegate.

"It is a difficult situation. We are going to get some opposition on this," Pollock said.

"I think it can be done. Do you?" another asked.

"If it can be done, it is wonderful," the congressman added.

A third question: "Will you be behind us?"

A third answer: "To the maximum extent I can."

The brief interchange caused one native delegate to later remark: "We had ought to name a new Indian dance in honor of the Congressman—the Political Side-Step."

As Senator Ted Stevens took the platform, President Notti remarked, "Two up, and one to go."

After urging the delegates to form positions on national issues, Senator Stevens said that competition between the political parties would result in a favorable land claims settlement.

He indicated that he would fully support the native position. "The problem of the two per cent is not that it is too much; it is that it is too little," Stevens said.

Stevens said he supported "as much land as possible in the settlement," and all of it "in fee title."

In echoing his statement that competitive politics would boost the settlement, Stevens said, "Active competition in both parties achieved statehood. Competition is working for you today such as you've never seen it before."

Further pursuing his position on the claims, Stevens left the delegates somewhat disappointed. Although he favored the full amount of money settlement, the full amount of land, and the revenue sharing proposal, Stevens indicated that it all should come from the federal government.

The AFN position favors the \$500 million cash settlement be paid by the federal treasury, yet it would like to select land from both open public lands (federal) as well as lands to which the state does not have final patent.

AFN also would like for the state to assume responsibility through revenue sharing, in the form of the two per cent royalty.

Following Stevens' speech, the delegates resumed consideration of resolutions, which totaled over 50 in number.

One of these empowered the AFN board of directors to approve the contract with the Goldberg firm. The first matter of business during the board meeting Sunday was the contract, which the board approved.

President Emil Notti noted the significance of this resolution: "The convention directed the board to go ahead on the contract with the Goldberg firm. It shows the native population's approval of the initial board action."

Notti also commented on speeches made Saturday by members of the congressional delegation.

"We saw very clearly where our support lies in our overall efforts," Notti stated.

"The board Sunday decided to seek funds immediately to put a man in Washington and to expand our overall efforts on the land claims bill.

"During the next six months, we will have as many people as possible working on the land bill," he added.

"We consider the next nine months to be critical in our efforts.

"The people demonstrated determination to move ahead on the land claims bill with a unified approach," he concluded.