

New Arctic Borough Chairman Confident of His Job...

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ment. The oil companies are not dealing with the Native people anywhere.

"I don't think that the oil companies have anything to fear. We have to operate under the law. We are responsible people. I don't believe we intend to tax

Charter Flight...

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in Fairbanks and continue on to Inuvik, but they should contact Western Travel Service, Inc. at 452-1127, immediately.

It is hoped that fans from all over Alaska will join the flight in Fairbanks and accompany the contestants and the Tundra Times board to the Canadian event.

There are 113 seats available on the Wien Consolidated Boeing 737.

For a never-to-be-forgotten experience, join the flight July 14 to Inuvik.

Egan Pushes Pipeline...

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value remaining after transportation costs are subtracted from the market price of the oil delivered to the refinery.

Governor Egan said it was originally anticipated that state income from North Slope oil production would begin in 1973. But now, because of the long pipeline construction delay, he said, "income at that anticipated 1973 level will not begin until 1976 or later" and that the three years of lost revenues approximates the \$1.2 billion.

He said continued delay beyond 1976 or 1977 "would mean an actual cutback of vital state expenditures to a point where the general health, safety and welfare of Alaskan citizens would be seriously jeopardized."

The Alaska governor also said the assumption that a single pipeline corridor could be utilized by running both an oil and a natural gas line through Canada "may not be technically valid."

He said the two lines will operate at different temperatures and "soil conditions that might be acceptable to one might be totally unacceptable for the other. The different engineering requirements involved may not permit a single corridor but in some areas two routes widely separated."

This, he said, would negate supposed environmental and economical advantages anticipated by some as their reason for favoring a Canadian route.

In addition, Egan said, the assumption that a Canadian route would bring gas quicker to midwestern markets "is also a false one."

For conservation purposes, he explained, natural gas initially will be reinjected into the oil fields to maintain pressure and allow maximum recovery of oil.

Full gas production should be available by 1978, he said, "at which time a gas line is planned for completion... The same considerations (on the timing of volume gas production) apply regardless of whether the oil pipeline crosses Alaska or Canada."

As well as the greater delay involved in a Canadian route postponing state of Alaska revenues, the governor said, input of Canadian oil into the line could cut Alaskan oil production by 50 per cent.

"Since state revenues depend on the rate of production," he said, "such a cut would work a tremendous financial burden on the state."

As well as providing sorely needed state revenues, Egan said, the trans-Alaska pipeline "will

excessively. In order to operate this borough effectively, I am going to need some taxes," Hopson stated.

The borough chairman has no difficulty in assuming the role of spokesman for the new government. His long history of involvement in territorial and state government and in Native affairs presents an impressive record.

A veteran of World War II, Hopson has served continuously on the city council of Barrow from the end of that war until 1969. After twenty years in the Alaska National Guard, he resigned his commission with the rank of Captain in 1969.

In 1956, he was elected to a term in the House of Representatives during the last territorial legislature. In 1958, he became a member of the first Alaska State Senate. He was reelected to the Senate in 1960 and again in 1964.

Until he became director of

be highly beneficial to the economy of the state, and of the nation. I think this is obvious in that so many government and political leaders are so keen on having this industry locate in their particular region."

The governor also said the trans-Alaska pipeline project should not be treated out of context with the historic Alaska Native Claims Settlement approved by Congress last year.

"The Settlement Act," he said, "provides that over one half of the monetary settlement will come from the royalties, rentals and bonuses Alaska will receive from its oil. A long delay in the flow of North Slope oil will mean a long delay in giving rural Alaska the economic means of breaking the poverty cycle which has too long been part of rural Alaska life."

In his testimony, Governor Egan said he believes "an endless pursuit of often-undefined goals in the name of environmental protection — in the absence of a governmental framework to clearly define environmental objectives — will result in stagnation of the American economy through federal inaction or delay."

Because of Alaska's circumstances as an emerging economy "and as the major target of of undefined environmental goals," he said, "a particularly severe hardship is being worked on our state."

Elaborating in a longer, written statement filed with the committee, the Alaska governor said Congress "has not given the executive branch the substantive standards it would need for the kind of centralized decision making which is being attempted through the National Environmental Policy Act."

As a result, he said federal actions under the act are actually evolving into "a restructuring of American enterprise, public and private" on the basis of environmental considerations alone and in the absence of overall guidelines.

Egan told the committee that Alaska's petroleum resources "were recognized from the start as being the vital financial foundation" for Alaska statehood.

He said that "to deprive Alaska of this keystone facility (the trans-Alaska pipeline)... would be a disaster of the first order for the human environment of the Alaskan people. I ask that you, in your wisdom, weigh carefully in your deliberations the justified needs of Alaska's citizens and our aspirations as a state."

The Alaska Federation of Natives in 1969, Hopson served as executive director of the Arctic Slope Native Association.

When William Egan was elected Governor in 1970, he asked Hopson to be his Special Assistant for Native Affairs. He resigned this post last May 15 to campaign for the chairmanship of the new borough.

Thirty years ago, Eben Hopson married Rebecca Panigeo, daughter of Mrs. Hazel Panigeo of Barrow. The Hopsons have twelve children.

"Educationally speaking," explains Hopson, "I have all that the eighth grade offered me in 1939, which leads me to believe that I am one of the few that can say, education is not the most common denominator for intelligence."

Education, however, will be a priority matter for the new borough government. "It will depend upon negotiations with the BIA as to when we take over the Barrow, Point Hope, and Wainwright schools. The law requires that we take over the Barter Island and Anaktuvuk Pass schools as soon as possible. These are state operated schools."

"Knowing the attitude of the newly elected school board, however, I believe that they will attempt to take over the schools as soon as possible."

Hopson indicated that he will be firm, yet just, in dealing with the oil companies operating on the North Slope. He expressed disappointment that oil interests have opposed formation of the new borough.

"They are going to have to work with us. There is no precedent for them coming under the jurisdiction of Natives. We don't have to have an agreement with them, but we will probably have to justify millage rates. After accepting the reality of the borough, they may want us to provide services for them. We are organizing a constitutionally recognized borough and

they are going to have to live with that fact."

Chairman Hopson commented on fears expressed by oil company spokesmen about potentially oppressive taxing situations.

"We are going to have taxing authority, but in no event will we tax the oil companies just for the purpose of taxing them," he said.

Hopson estimated that the millage rate on real property would probably remain within five mills for at least the next five years.

The new chairman noted that organization of the borough may not be without its growing pains. "There are going to be a lot of heads knocking together (state and borough governments, and oil companies) in deciding what services we will be able to provide."

When Eben Hopson was asked

Muktuk Sale Halted...

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incidences of food poisoning. "There are recorded cases of people becoming less susceptible to bacteria in foods that are normal to them," said Torgerson.

"This is what is known as the classical 'iron stomach'."

He could give no accurate statistics as to the number of cases of food poisonings in the Native population per year.

On a nationwide basis, he estimated there are one to two million cases a year, although the statistics are difficult to assess, as many people find it hard to distinguish between common flu symptoms and food poisoning.

"Probably every Native experiences it (food poisoning) no less than once," said Torgerson. As for botulism he said, "There are relatively few deaths due to botulism, nationwide."

"Botulism comes from anerob-

whether he was concerned about the ability of the North Slope Borough to finance operations of new governmental services, he smiled and replied, "No, I am not worried. I am not worried at all."

The veteran legislator and administrator defeated Eskimo Charles Edwardsen, Jr., who ran as a write in candidate for the office of Chairman. Edwardsen was disqualified from appearing on the ballot because of duplication of signatures on his petition for candidacy.

He told the Tundra Times, "I have only one comment: Never let anyone pass around your petition. It was a costly lesson."

Chairman Hopson said that he was eager to settle again in Barrow after a three year absence. Other than his responsibility for operation of the new local government, he has additional plans for his life in Barrow.

ic organisms, anerobic meaning "growing without oxygen." It is most likely to occur, he said, in pickled muktuk.

Part of the State Health Department's objection is to the conditions under which the meat is handled.

Torgerson said, "It's stripped out on the beach, where there is not a great deal of sanitation or care. Eskimos," he added, "will eat a seal, after deliberately letting it bloat."

Howard Rock, born and raised in Point Hope said "this is definitely not true."

Torgerson's comments included criticisms on "the way food is handled, throwing fish or game on the ground where dogs can urinate on it or in the neighborhood of dog feces."

"No, no, that's not the case," said the dissenting expert we interviewed. "The Eskimos are very, very careful about keeping the meat clean." It is harvested way out on the ice and they're very cautious about getting it off the ice quickly."

"It's obvious," he added, "they've made the connection between contact with the ground and sanitation. They've been harvesting and eating muktuk for years."

Lawrence Miller, bacteriologist of the Arctic Health Research Center was on vacation and not available for comment, but Dorothy Whitney, information officer, said the Center is doing studies on the subject, but that they are in process and the final results were not ready at this time.

The problem with muktuk, she said, is that it is raw, and "that ANY raw meat, fowl, fish, or beef, as well as muktuk, could be a source of infection."

While the likelihood of botulism appeared to be minimal and the incidence of salmonella in frozen meat not great, Ms. Whitney explained that the charge of the Public Health Department is to protect the public.

The problem may lie in regulatory procedures. Public sale of muktuk outside of Native communities is fairly recent and there seem to be no secure guidelines among officials as to setting up standards.

The Fairbanks Native Association was allowed to serve muktuk at their annual potlatch this spring, which is attended by about three to four thousand people, not all of them Native by any means.

The never-ending search for exciting foods by the worlds official and unofficial gourmets is likely to create an even greater demand for muktuk by the general public in the future.

Pender Reviews Events...

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he represents here. Not only that, but it appeared to be the sly kind of misrepresentation in which the writer hints and implies, but never comes right out and says it.

I would like to correct this as quickly and publicly as possible.

In discussing the polarization of this community, I said that some places a year ago went "off limits" for me, in the sense that they became uncomfortable. Among them, I named the Rural Cap office. In the draft of the column, I qualified all these places: they were public, or semi-public places in which people met and talked and through which many people passed. I was thinking about places, not agencies, not businesses. Through error (no doubt mine, since simple typing tends to make my mind wander) that part of the column was left out of the column as printed. Thus, I managed to imply in a particularly sneaky and weasel way, that Rural Cap, and the mayor, who was then, as now, head honcho for that agency here, were involved in the great increase in local rhetoric which began to happen about that time.

I want to say distinctly: I have not the slightest idea whether that implication is, or is not true. I have no personal knowledge of whether the mayor does, or does not make provocative statements of the kind I objected to. He never has to me, or in my presence.

The same may be said of his staff last summer. All of us here are very well aware that Rural

Cap has served this community very well in a number of ways for a number of years, under a number of leaders, including the present one.

I did not intend to point a finger at any individual, or any organization as being "responsible" for our difficulties. We have many problems involving many different people, ideas, agencies. We are also in a period of rapid change and political struggle. People are tense, since the future seems clouded.

We are also a small town, devoted to gossip and conjecture. We are now involved in a movement of history which is almost unique and for which there are few, or no, precedents. It seems certain we will continue to have hassles and difficulties, since there are many points of view; the job ahead is complex and difficult, and there are a lot of roadblocks in the way.

I am extremely sorry I appeared to be attacking the mayor. This was not my intention. Had I been in the state and available for comment, I would have said so much earlier. I have never had any major differences with him in either of his capacities.

At the same time, I cannot retreat from my own most deeply held belief, corny as it may sound: that you cannot measure the worth of any human by race, color, religious beliefs, or sex. As Malcolm X said after his return from Mecca and before his murder, "There are only good and bad human beings."