

WARNING

Wallace W. Dawson, State Fire Marshal, today warned persons living in mobile homes which utilize aluminum electrical wiring, that all screws in outlets and switches be tightened once a year.

"Several homeowners and also electrical contractors have contacted our office to report fires in outlets and switches," said Dawson.

Reorganization . . .

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ceeded in achieving a land settlement and positively influenced the state and nation by our interests at all levels of human concern."

Carter said that the AFN is "currently responsible for seven grants and five contracts totaling over \$3 million annually," and that a number of other federal funds were being considered, pending approval of regional representatives.

Carter said there had been "some adverse feelings of depression amongst the central staff" because the land claims act did not provide for the AFN or a counter-part central organization. But he noted strong support for continuing organization, with power lying within the 12-member task force formed especially for the post-settlement AFN.

State Sen. Willie L. Hensley, D-Kotzebue, proposed creation of the 12-man task force during an AFN executive session at Juneau Jan. 16.

"We need to delineate what powers and responsibilities the statewide corporation will have vis-a-vis the regional corporations," Hensley said at that Juneau meeting, and he continued his support of reorganization Monday while noting legal obligations to the present federation.

Still to be decided are the powers and limitations of the AFN in the post-claims era, "but the very fact that we are here indicates support in setting up the statewide organization," Hensley said.

Carter urged in his report that the pursuit of grants and contracts not be considered the primary function of the AFN central office, but also the provision of services through creation of a central data bank and information clearing house with expertise in all areas of need. "Many of the services could be rendered at little or no cost if we fully utilize the agencies or foundations available to us," he said.

Carter also said that the AFN is faced daily with problems and considerations which affect all Alaskan Natives and urged

TB Increase . . .

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physicians."

Ninety per cent of Alaska natives "are TB positive on the tuberculin tests," Kaye said. "This means that tuberculin germs are in their bodies."

These persons—all persons—with positive Tine (tuberculin) Tests, said Kaye should have periodical chest x-rays to be sure that the tuberculin germs in their bodies have not become active.

And if an individual's physician prescribes Isoniazid—a preventive medication—for him, the patient should take the Isoniazid pills for a full 12 months if he is to have any assurance that he will not develop active tuberculosis, Kaye said.

The program to prevent tuberculosis is free, Kaye emphasized, paid for by the state.

Kaye said he also wished to thank Fairbanks residents for their "terrific efforts" on behalf of the Tuberculosis Association. Their efforts, he said, will help others know the value of following the advice of their physicians and carrying out the steps of preventive medicine which can overcome such problems as that of tuberculosis in Alaska.

the group to consider establishing a regional office representative within AFN to help in the decision making and carrying out business for the various regions.

"Within our staff and personnel limitations, we are your servants and will help as much as possible to carry out our assigned tasks," he said.

The Native leaders also heard a lengthy report from Ken Bass on proposed amendments which would close a number of loopholes in the land claims act. A number of questions on the proposed amendments were raised in the meeting.

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schools," he said.

"If our discussions indicate that the funds would be better utilized for area high schools, we would then formally request the BIA to transfer the funds," Wallis continued. "We realize the need for regional high schools, but the need for area high schools, in our opinion, is greater. We believe," Wallis stated, "that area high schools should have been developed before the regional high schools in the first place."

Wallis said that the vote to pursue this course of action by

both the Executive Committee of the Tanana Chiefs and the Board of Directors of the Fairbanks Native Association was unanimous.

"This may seem to be a harsh course of action," he said, "however, it was not taken until after all the consequences were investigated."

"We are requesting Mr. Morris Thompson, Mr. Marshall Lind, and Mr. Stanley Friese to meet with the Tanana Chiefs and the Fairbanks Native Association at the earliest possible date," he said.

Handicapped . . .

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Right now, she said, some handicapped children go to the Utah School for the Deaf and Blind because BIA and the state have a contract with that school, but the school is crowded, and "one day the contract will expire."

She wonders where Alaskan children will go then to receive the education they deserve.

"The problem is more critical than meets the eye," she said.

Her own daughter, Karen, now 11, is hard of hearing. Before Karen started school, Mrs. Bergt traveled to Washington State, Oregon and California looking for a school for her child. The Alaska Children's Association looked too.

The answer was always the same. The schools were too overcrowded to accept another student.

Then, Mrs. Bergt said, two or three weeks before school started, Vancouver School for the Deaf called to tell her they had an opening.

She has had to send Karen out to school twice, she said, because Fairbanks school district had no special classes for the hard of hearing or deaf.

Now, she said, Karen attends school in Fairbanks. But last year, for a time, it appeared that she would have to go away to school again. Because there were only four hard of hearing children in school here, the school district decided to drop the class for the hard of hearing.

A parent of a hard of hearing child called to tell Mrs. Bergt the news, and she said, "I got on the phone. . . They finally reinstated it."

However, because many communities have only a small number of children with handicaps, Mrs. Bergt favors the idea of regional schools for the handi-

Stevens Announces Alaska's Villages To Be Eligible for EDA Programs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senator Ted Stevens announced today that all of Alaska's native villages will eventually become eligible for the Economic Development Administration Indian Program as a result of an amendment introduced by Senator Stevens in the Native Claims Settlement Act—Section 2 (G).

Until now, only reservations such as Metlakatla participated in the program in Alaska.

Under it an Indian or native village may receive 100 per cent funding for public works projects.

Said Stevens, "Key to final designation in the program is the completion of the survey and patenting process for a village so its legal land base is established. And it must also be

stressed that designation does not mean project approval. There is strong national competition for these funds and Alaskan villages need to realize this as they now become eligible for the program."

Villages immediately eligible are the following: Angoon, Aniak, Barrow, Bethel, Circle, Fort Yukon, Grayling, Juneau Village, Kaktovik, Kiana, King Cover, Klukwan, Kotzebue, Northway, Old Harbor, Saxman, Shageluk, Shaktoolik, Sitka Indian Villages, Tanacross, Tanana, Teller, Unalaska, Yakutat.

In addition the following vil-

lages have been surveyed and have requested patents for their land. When these are issued to the township trustee and deeds issued to the individual occupants these villages will also be

eligible: Akiochak, Alakanuk, Ambler, Chignik Lagoon, Ek-wok, Emmonak, Kake, U.S.S. 3852, Kasaan, Kwethluk, Kotzebue Addition 2, Kotzebue Addition 3, Lake Alakanagik, Larsen Bay, Manokotak, Mentasta, New Stuyahok, Ouzink, Port Graham, Stebbins, Stevens Village, Unalaska Addition 2, Upper Kalskak.

Amendment Flap . . .

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the House, the fastest means of moving that proposal requires swift House approval of a technical amendment.

On the Senate side, a more substantive funding advance could be added on.

"When the House sends us a technical bill, I want to work out an amendment here (on the Senate side)," said Senator Stevens.

The House Interior Committee was expected to consider the Aspinall amendment during its weekly meeting on January 26. It didn't. Rep. Lloyd Meeds (D-Wash.) wasn't satisfied that the bill was devoid of substantive issues.

"It resolved a lot of technical problems against the Natives, but nothing for them. They happened to be technicalities that didn't do the Natives any good," commented Meeds on the amendment.

Although the Congressman declined to elaborate, a brief glance at the bill sets three subsections apart from the others which are primarily concerned with spelling and punctuation corrections.

A committee staff memorandum noted, "Subsection (L) corrects an ambiguity by specifying that only Villages (as distinguished from Regional Corporations) may make selections within Wildlife Refuges and National Forests, and by providing that Regional Corporation selections within Pet. 4 will apply to the surface estate only. Both provisions were intended by the Conference Committee."

Reading further, "Subsection (o) and Subsection (p), together, make the reservation of subsurface rights apply to all, rather than a part, of the lands selected within the Wildlife Refuge System. This was the Conference Committee's intention."

One former congressional staffer, who spent several years working on Native land claims proposals, suggested that ambiguous language in the act might later afford regional corporations an opportunity to seek subsurface rights in Petroleum No. 4 and in wildlife reserves.

"That's ridiculous," observed Alaska Congressman Nick Begich. "The record is clear on that. As far as they are concerned, the Pet. 4 argument is invalid."

Begich, who led a House fight to allow penetration of Pet. 4 subsurface rights last year, added, "I lost on that battle. The intent of Congress is clear on this issue."

Rep. Begich was hopeful that committee approval on the amendment would be won soon and anticipated final passage within two to three months. Senator Stevens was also anxious for the House bill to reach the

Senate, criticizing Rep. Meeds for his objections.

"I wish he would let the bill get through the House as a technical and non-controversial bill. From the point of their (House) timing, Meeds is doing us harm," he said.

Learning of Steven's observations, Meeds replied, "No comment."

In spite of their differences, Begich, Meeds, and Stevens all agreed that the regional corporations were in need of money this year. Meeds suggested that commercial loans could be used in the interim.

"I met with bankers and asked them to agree to loans as soon as the corporations are legally formed. I believe that they will agree. When we (Congress) advance the money, I want to see the stipulation that the corporations must first repay loans secured since the passage of the claims act before spending it anywhere else," stated Stevens.

Begich also favors the funding advance, but strongly opposes an interim use of commercial loans.

"The Native people should not pay interest on money that has been authorized by Congress and requested by the President in his budget. Eight per cent on 12 million dollars is a lot of money. I think it is a dangerous process," he said.

A better alternative, he suggested, would be for Native corporations to approach the State of Alaska.

"Money should be borrowed from the State. Funds for meetings, attorney fees and other expenses needed in organizing the corporations are required immediately. Funds for planning could be available from the State now, too. The amount probably would be much less than the 12.5 million dollars, but Natives shouldn't have to pay interest on this money," he noted.

In the meantime, in spite of predictions of early action from Begich and Stevens, the Aspinall amendment has not been scheduled for House Interior Committee consideration.

According to Louis Sigler, special consultant on Indian Affairs to the committee, the bill can only come before the committee during the regular Wednesday meeting of the full committee.

Senator Mike Gravel was not contacted by the Tundra Times during the amendment controversy. He was in Juneau to address the state legislature. In his remarks, Gravel accepted credit for obtaining the 12.5 million dollar advance.

Gravel said that he wrote the President in December to request the money.