

Many Ak Complaints

The first quarter of operation for the state's new ombudsman's office has shown that Alaska may be a particularly busy state for complaints about state operations and handling of government problems.

In the first three months since the Ombudsman's Office opened in July 14, there have been 215 inquiries filed with about half of these cases now closed, according to Frank Flavin, the state ombudsman.

Flavin said the biggest problem he has had in these initial first months has been the lack of written policy and procedures within some state departments. He has already sent out requests that several agencies promulgate regulations.

But, Flavin said, other agencies have made substantial efforts to revise handling of complaints by citizens. Those agencies include the Human Rights Commission, the Department of Revenue, Audit Division, and the Department of Commerce, Division of Occupational Licensing.

"The most common complaints we have had to date include problems with tax returns, land rights of way and unemployment problems; although it is still pretty early to tell if these will remain popular areas," he said.

Flavin said there has been some confusion in some citizen's and agencies' understanding of the function of the new Ombudsman's office. Promulgation of his regulations are now being reviewed in public hearings throughout the state.

Travel to 14 cities and towns has cut down on investigation time for the three-person office, according to Flavin. Despite light turnout at some hearings the travel has provided a good chance to explain to the state's residents what the role of the ombudsman is in their local communities.

"Explaining the office on local Barrow TV beats any communications from Anchorage," Flavin said.

Of the 215 complaints received, 35 involved areas outside the jurisdiction of the ombudsman. Under state law, the ombudsman can investigate complaints regarding the administrative agencies and state departments.

Complaints involving the governor or past governors as well as problems dealing with the legislature are out of the ombudsman's jurisdiction.

Eskimo Story...

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that thunder part is a fairy tale, but the recipe for gum is true.

ESKIMO CHEWING GUM

Eskimos can make chewing gum. To make it, a little clay bowl is filled with seal oil and set it on the ground out doors and build a fire around it. And the fire is kept going for maybe more than an hour, so the oil is kept boiling and boiling until it is thick and be pulled out of the fire.

So to test it one has to drip some on snow and pick it up, to see if it is thick, by putting a stick in a boiling oil. When it is done, smother the fire out, dump the chewing gum on the clean snow and work it around with fingers until it is chewy like a bubble gum. As it is a big hunk, it can be put away wrapped in a water repellent material we made from walrus insides.

From this lump, anybody that want to chew, bite some off many times for a long time and enjoy chewing gum, the color is dark brown to black and it tastes real good, when it is a little thin, it can be thickened with bird skin down, by chewing it in.

In 50 of the inquiries, information was all that was needed to be supplied to answer complaints or questions of Alaskans calling the ombudsman's office. Of the 130 complaints that required investigation, 44 cases have been investigated with 24 of the cases closed.

The remaining 20 have been completed with recommendations formulated and forwarded to the proper agencies. Seventy-one matters are still being actively investigated and 11 other matters are pending a complete investigation, according to Flavin.

Most of the complaints have come into the office via phone calls, but about 22% of the complaints have come by letters with another 61 coming from personal visits to the ombudsman's office in Anchorage (310 K Street) and in the Capital Building in Juneau (Pouch WO).

Flavin said even he has been surprised at the heavy case-load of complaints.

"The Alaskan Ombudsman's Office has received the same amount of complaints these past three months as the Hawaiian Ombudsman's Office did in its first three months—and we have about half the number of people that Hawaii has."

"This office has closed as many cases in October as in the first three months of our operations," Flavin said. "Our January report should be surprising."

By far the most complaints hail from Anchorage. There have been complaints from 32 cities, towns and villages with Anchorage totaling 97 of those complaints. The Juneau area tallied 45 complaints with Fairbanks having 18 complaints. There were also five complaints filed from out-of-state, said Flavin.

All complaints' names are confidential, but case summaries of each investigation are available for the public's reading at the Ombudsman's Office located at 310 K Street, Room 503, Anchorage, Alaska, and in the Capital Building, Room 106, Juneau, Alaska.

Library...

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When completed "A Guide to Alaska Native Corporation Publications," will be distributed free of charge to Native corporations, Alaska libraries, and others interested in the work of the Native corporations.

The library also plans to make a microfilm copy of Native corporation publications available for use.

The guide will be sent to the publisher in July 1976.

Textbook...

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of a military delegate to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board; and review of the statewide multimedia program offered by the Alaska State Museum.

The board heard reports on the Health Education Program implementation, development of the Statewide Task Force on Accreditation, the Museum Collection Advisory Committee and the Fiscal Year 1977 budget.

Members of the State Board of Education are August Anderson, Sitka; Darwin Heine, Fairbanks; Beverly Horn, Kodiak; Jan Holman, Nome; Donn Kruse, Yvonne Tremblay, and Thelma Langdon, Anchorage; and Katherine Hurley, Wasilla.

Another Deadline

There are only 48 days left for selection applications to be filed by the regional corporations. Applications must be on file by December 18, 1975, with the Bureau of Land Management.

BLM regulations say that regions may file for more acreage than they are entitled to, and this may help if some lands are not available for selection.

However, the Bureau of Land Management is asking all regions to get their selection applications in as early as possible instead of

waiting for the deadline. BLM has received selection application for 10 million acres out of the 16 million for regional selection.

While all regional corporations already have information on filing applications, the Bureau of Land Management is ready and willing to help with any last-minute questions or problems that may appear.

Contact the BLM Alaska State Office, 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage, AK, 99501, or by phone, (907) 277-1561.

Overturns Ruling...

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proceedings.

Then Secretary of Interior, Rogers Morton appointed administrative law judges in 1974 to decide the status of the villages. Their decision was passed to the Alaska Native Claims Appeal Board. And the Appeals Board decision went back to Interior.

It was not until Morton signed the decision declaring the villages ineligible that the Native corporations were notified of what had transpired.

Gesell also found that the State of Alaska lacked legal standings to participate in the matter and that the Secretary of Interior violated the law by letting the state appeal and protest.

The state was party to administrative proceedings which led to the court case. Finally, Gesell cited, "impermissible congressional interference with the administrative process as a result of oversight hearings conducted by U.S. Rep. John Dingle, R-Michigan, while the eligibility of the villages was being decided."

"This situation presents a disturbing conflict between Congress and the executive branch and it is the responsibility of the judiciary in this instance to prevent an impermissible intrusion of one branch into the domain of the other," the judge said.

The decision of the BIA area director in Juneau was "the last valid and — untainted decision within the Department

of Interior," regarding status of these villages, Gesell concluded.

Bering Straits Native Corporation officials said they were pleased with the speed with which the court reached the decision. It came less than two weeks after oral arguments were made.

Koniag, Inc. filed appeals on behalf of seven of its villages in 1974. Cook Inlet Region Inc. followed with appeals for two villages and the Aleut Corporation for another. In early 1975, Bering Straits filed the Solomon appeal.

The cases were consolidated by the court and oral arguments were heard Oct. 31 and Nov. 3. Counsel for Bering Straits said Gesell wanted to get the opinion out as quickly as possible, because he realized the complexity of the case and statutory deadlines involved.

The case called for Gesell to issue summary judgment resolving the issue on a strictly legal basis without actual trial. Gesell had the option of remanding the matter to the Interior Department or simply declaring the villages eligible.

Bering Straits attorney said he felt sending it back to the Interior Department would have been a "useless" act."

"The only fair thing to do if we were right on our legal points would be to declare these villages eligible," said counsel Fred Miller.

Gesell felt they were — and he did.

Bush Transportation...

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transportation.

The project proposes that the State of Alaska undertake the marking, maintenance, and improvement of the existing inter-village snowmachine trails, many of which are rugged and dangerous.

Recommendation 5, proposes that the state should increase financial support for bush airports.

Today, and for many years to come, 200-odd Native villages rely on air service for long-haul personal transportation, for groceries, for medical supplies — for the very necessities of life.

Yet in no village are the physical facilities for air service adequate.

A couple of villages have controlled airports, while in dozens of other communities the only airstrip is a sand bar.

In many parts of Alaska villages use council funds, volunteer labor, even land claims benefits to supplement governmental airport maintenance.

Bush air carriers provide hazardous service. Schedules are seldom published and scheduled flights are regularly dropped when substitution of charter business seems likely to add to carrier revenues.

Bush air service is dangerous to life.

CLASSIFIED HELP WANTED

TITLE: Receptionist
WHERE: Tanana Chiefs Native Services, Fairbanks
AVAILABLE: December 1
RESPONSIBILITIES: To receive and refer visitors and telephone calls, type forms, reports, statistical matter and memorandums. Perform other related general office duties.
QUALIFICATIONS: Ability to meet the public in a courteous and intelligent manner, skill in operating an electric typewriter, some experience desirable but will train.
SALARY: DOE plus fringe benefits
CONTACT: Sara Nichols
Tanana Chiefs Conference
Native Services
1st & Hall, Doyon Building for an application
APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 1 or until position is filled

TITLE: Employment Assistance Officer
WHERE: Tanana Chiefs Native Services, Fairbanks
AVAILABLE: December 1
RESPONSIBILITIES: Will include but not limited to planning, developing and directing of the Employment Assistance Program within the assigned Tanana Chiefs Region.
QUALIFICATIONS: Experience in working with Native groups, organizations and individuals, and with federal, state and private agencies regarding employment assistance.
SALARY: DOE plus fringe benefits
CONTACT: Sara Nichols
Tanana Chiefs Conference
Native Services
1st & Hall, Doyon Building for an application
APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 1 or until position is filled.

HELP WANTED

The North Slope Borough is recruiting for the following positions. Each position requires living and working in Barrow and travel to all North Slope Villages.

C.I.P. CONTROL ACCOUNTANT: Duties include monitoring and auditing Capital Improvement Program Projects relating C.I.P. job progress to expenditures. Minimum Employment Requirements: Graduation from an approved technical school (engineering, architecture, etc.) or equivalent experience. One year's field experience is required in addition to education. Purchasing and accounting experience would be helpful.

ENGINEER — C.I.P. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION: Duties include initiating and administering all North Slope Borough C.I.P. construction projects. Minimum Employment Requirements: Graduation from an accredited engineering school or equivalent experience. Three year's experience, after graduation, with one year's experience having direct responsibility for design and/or project administration. Contract administration ability and Arctic experience is preferred.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS: The Director shall administer all aspects of the North Slope Borough's Public Works Department, including the Capital Improvement Program, Maintenance and Operations, and Housing. Minimum Employment Requirements: Graduation from an accredited engineering school or equivalent experience. Able to obtain Alaska Professional Engineering Registration. Five year's experience, after graduation, with a minimum of two year's experience having direct responsibility for design and/or project administration. Send resumes to the North Slope Borough, c/o Construction Systems Management, Inc., 835 "D" Street, Suite 207, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

HELP WANTED

**STATE OF ALASKA
FISH AND GAME REGIONAL SUPERVISOR**
Division of Commercial Fisheries
\$2,429 in Juneau
Supervises all fisheries management and research activities in Southeastern Region.
Requires Ph.D. and four years experience, Master's degree and six years experience, or Bachelor's degree and seven years experience in fishery biology.
For more details contact:
Myron Q. Richardson
Division of Personnel & Labor Relations
Pouch C
Juneau, Alaska 99811
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

HELP WANTED

**STATE OF ALASKA
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**
\$1699 — Anchorage
Volunteer coordinator to head State Office of Volunteer Services. Responsible for supervising statewide program, providing technical assistance, fostering interaction between volunteer programs in public and private sector, disseminating information and encouraging public participation.
Applicants should possess: demonstrated ability to plan, direct and coordinate activities of a statewide program; proven ability to communicate effectively with individuals of diverse cultural and economic backgrounds.
Bachelor's degree, familiarity with Alaska and volunteer supervision experience desired but not required.
For details contact:
Powell Thomas, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor
Pouch AA
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Deadline for receipt of applications: December 5.