

U.S. Coast Guard Will Not Allow Hi-jinks on the High Seas

JUNEAU — Are you planning to paddle a canoe to Japan? Or maybe sail a bathtub to the Soviet Union?

Before you get past the plan-

ning stage there is something you should know. On April 17, the U.S. Coast Guard was given the authority to prohibit the departure of boats on extended

and perilous voyages for which they are manifestly unsuited.

The new regulation emphasized that the authority to use the new law is limited to the Coast Guard District Commanders, with the explicit restriction that this authority cannot be delegated further.

In Alaska, Rear Admiral Glenn O. Thompson, Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District will consider the design or configuration of the boat, its construction, its operational and safety equipment, and the specific voyage intended.

The Coast Guard generally learns of such voyages either through the news media, or by means of calls and letters from members of the boatman's family and from his concerned friends.

Venturesome seafarers will be given every reasonable opportunity by the District Commander to show why he should be permitted to make the voyage in question.

The Coast Guard's concept of a manifestly unsafe voyage is perhaps best typified by a recent case in which an operator

proposed to sail and paddle a 16-foot canoe across the Atlantic to Portugal.

The purpose of the voyage was to focus attention on the financial needs of a senior citizens' home in the Mid West. The operator had admittedly very limited experience in open water.

In fact, the operator had determined the suitability of the canoe for the intended voyage by sailing and testing it on an inland lake.

Based on search and rescue case studies, the Coast Guard anticipates that approximately four manifestly unsafe voyages will be attempted each year.

The District Commander for San Francisco reports that his district expended nearly 75,000 man hours in handling only four unsafe voyages.

In one case, search and rescue aircraft flew a total of 125 hours and searched more than 270,000 square miles of ocean, an area almost half the size of Alaska, in a period of only three days.

The Coast Guard is concerned that these boating safety and search and rescue resources should be applied to other more pressing and universal needs of the boating community.

It is important to note that the boatman (or boat owner) against whom the rule is im-

posed has the right, under the Administrative Procedure Act, to petition for reconsideration and repeal of the ruling.

It is also important to note that the District Commanders will be looking for blatantly unsafe conditions that would make the successful completion of certain extended voyages virtually impossible.

2C in Alaska

The headquarters for the Alaska 2-C Study will officially be transferred from Seattle, Wash. to Anchorage, Alaska effective immediately.

Roy Sampsel, special assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, and chairman of the Alaska 2-C Study Steering Committee announced recently that the headquarters for the Alaska Study will be transferred from Seattle, Wash. to Anchorage, Alaska.

Sampsel said the move is being made on a recommendation of the Study Steering Committee to facilitate the coordination between the technical staff of the Study and the Study Work Group.

Sampsel indicated that the headquarters move would begin immediately and that all aspects of the changeover should be completed by early June.

Ducks Politics . . .

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dian Affairs, I have concluded that I must remain here to fulfill the commitment to the post. For me to leave at this time would be unfair to those who have shown faith in me and entrusted me with the responsibilities of this job — unfair to the administration, to the Congress, and to the Indian people," Thompson stated.

Although declining to enter the race, Thompson expressed support for the candidacy of the man who had been his former boss both as Governor of Alaska and Secretary of the Interior. He described Hickel as the "man of the seventies for Alaska."

The offer to enter Alaska politics was reported to have greatly tempted the 34-year-old Indian administrator.

A Hickel-Thompson ticket would have given Republicans strong potential for drawing support from Native voters, who

comprise about 20 per cent of the state's electorate and who have been a deciding factor in recent elections.

The post of lieutenant governor would have also provided Thompson with a good opportunity for a subsequent attempt for the governorship. Timing for a possible bid was also opportune since pipeline construction is expected to significantly increase Alaska's population and lessen effectiveness of Native voting power.

The reasons why Thompson should remain in Washington as BIA Commissioner were also compelling. With five months as head of the Bureau, he has only now been able to fill critical staff level positions in the Central Office and has yet to implement realignment at the agency.

He was reluctant to leave his job before making progress toward his objective of revitalizing the Bureau.

School Art . . .

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form a teaching function for the students and other teachers but for the students to have the opportunity to see an artist at work on his or her own project.

"Last year, schools in the state put up a total of only \$4,000.00 for pilot projects in film, dance, poetry and visual arts programs," says Melinda Godshalk, A.I.S. coordinator for the Alaska State Council on the arts.

"As a result of the successful residencies in Anchorage, Seward, Fairbanks, Nome, Juneau, Barrow and Dillingham, the artists-in-the-schools concept is catching fire. Next year is the local school boards budget the \$42,500.00 the administrations have pledged, we will be able to expand the program dramatically."

Communications . . .

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"There appears to be no relationship to any long-term policy other than a general commitment to a goal loosely described as independence from foreign energy sources. Is this to be taken literally — and if so, is it feasible or even desirable?" Sarnoff asked.

In a news conference later, Sarnoff charged that the Nixon administration had "probably done more to dismantle technology and science than any previous administration."

Sarnoff expressed concern with the future of communications in Alaska, a project into which RCA will have invested in excess of \$100 million by 1976, he said. RCA is planning to hold its September board of directors meeting in Alaska, he said.

Questioned about the progress of putting telephones and television into the bush however, Sarnoff said it was simply going to take time. He said that modification of the new satellite set for launching by 1975, would be extremely expensive.

A special communications committee of the Alaska Legislature had urged in the last session that RCA Global Com-

munications be urged to include a video transponder as part of the instrumentation on that satellite in order to bring television to isolated villages in Alaska in the foreseeable future.

The special communications committee also urged passage of a \$6 million bond issue to pay the cost of telecommunications equipment for the state and for creation of a Public Communications Commission whose responsibilities would include establishing a telecommunications system for the state.

The Committee cited the great need of Alaska, particularly its rural areas, for improved communications for purposes of education and health care, in addition to what most in the United States consider normal communications services.

The communications package passed the Senate, but got bogged down in the House in the final days of the session.

RCA spokesman said Alaska now has more earth stations for communications than any other state in the union, but declined to say how long it would be before telephone and television services reached the majority of Alaska's bush communities.

Grads at Selawik . . .

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wik. He said that Selawik students had graduated from high school before but that this was the first time their parents had been present for the graduation ceremony and that they were very happy it would be that way from now on.

Senior class members read the class history, and a class prophesy and sang, "We Have Only Just Begun," accompanied by Mrs. Nancy Johnston.

Jim Ede, Selawik School Administrator, and Jonas Ramoth handed out diplomas to the proud graduates.

A number of awards were presented by various teachers to outstanding students. Seniors Chuck Henry and Elsie Starbuck received leadership awards.

NANA awarded scholarship money to four graduates: Elsie Starbuck who plans to attend Alaska Methodist University, Kathy Field who is attending the University of Alaska in Anchorage, Kathy Wesley who will attend the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, and Ada Smith, who will be attending Sheldon Jackson Junior College.

A fifth scholarship winner, Ben Foxglove Jr., who won the William Randolph Hearst Leadership Scholarship earlier this year, does not graduate until next year.

Jim Ede presented a special plaque of appreciation to retiring teacher Bea Kahl, who after 15 years of service in rural Alaska schools and 30 years in teaching, is leaving Alaska to live on a farm in Minnesota.

Mrs. Kahl, along with her husband, Ley, who retired from Selawik School last year, will be remembered by Alaskan students from Huslia, Stony River, Chignik and Metlakatla who would gladly join Selawik students in saying, "Thank you for all of your efforts in improving education in rural Alaska."

As Selawik High School comes to the end of its first year as a four-year high school we can look back with pride in what we have done, laugh at our mistakes and look forward to the coming years in our new high school building.

We have mailed our first yearbook to the printer and when it comes back, we will all have a

memory book of our beginnings.

Mrs. Ede, the yearbook sponsor, has worked hard to help us put an annual together and teachers Maynard Perkins and Gene Heckler spent many hours helping with the photography.

We are keeping our Northern Lights Restaurant open this summer under the supervision of Allen Ticket. If you are in Selawik this summer, stop in and I'll be happy to serve you.

When fall comes I'll be sending our Selawik News in once again to Tundra Times. It's been lots of fun to be a correspondent. Thank you.

Pipeline Conference . .

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tion with present revenue.

The legislature also approved \$10 million in direct grants to Anchorage, Fairbanks, Barrow, Valdez, the Arctic Slope, North Pole and Big Delta. Indications are that Egan will approve that measure by the end of May.

Mallott and his staff are to discuss a number of vital issues, ranging from municipal financial assistance legislation to land use planning and management.

Mallott himself will delve first into state agency budgets and impact programs on the first day of the conference, while James Wiedeman, principal planner for the Office of the Governor, discusses state and local coordination and cooperation.

Others on the agenda include: Commissioner Frederick McGinnis of the Department of Health and Social Services, Col. M. E. Dankworth, director of the Alaska State Troopers, Deputy Commissioner J. A. Witt of the Department of Labor, Chairman Buck Kelly of the Northwest Federal Regional Council and Devin Waring, director of the Division of Community Planning within the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

In the area of special pipeline impact concerns the speakers will be Chuck Champion of the Department of Environmental Conservation; Mike Smith, chief of habitat protection within the Department of Fish and Game

and Deputy Commissioner Jerry Reinwand of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Alyeska Pipeline Service Company is to give a status report on its construction schedule, camp locations and employment.

Concluding the meeting, the morning of June 5, will be a summary of the session by Deputy Commissioner Don Argetsinger of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

LOAN APPLICATION

THE ALASKA VILLAGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., HAS MADE AN APPLICATION FOR A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,910,051.00, FROM THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION, AN AGENCY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. PROCEEDS OF THIS LOAN WILL BE USED TO IMPROVE SERVICE TO PRESENT MEMBERS AND TO MEET NEW EXPANDING DEMANDS FOR ELECTRIC POWER IN THE VILLAGES OF ALASKA SERVED BY THE COOPERATIVE.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE USE OF THESE LOAN FUNDS MAY BE DIRECTED TO: L.M., GENERAL MANAGER, ALASKA VILLAGE COOPERATIVE, INC., 999 E. TUDOR ROAD, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503.

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