

## Kotzebue Hosting— Council of Churches Meeting

The impact of the oil industry on the development of Alaska, the native land claims issue, and the church's response to crucial areas of human need will be major topics of discussion at the annual meeting of the Alaska Council of Churches next week.

To be held Feb. 23-26 in Kotzebue, the meeting will be the first for the council in a remote Alaska village.

**'T.V. Now'—**

## Bush Television

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA—United States Senator Mike Gravel has proposed that Alaska initiate a "T.V. Now" program which will bring television into a 171,000 square mile area of Alaska.

Senator Gravel has asked assistant defense secretary Robert T. Kelley to allow the communities to relay armed services television from five military installations in Alaska.

The pentagon has already agreed to allow this service from King Salmon military base which will permit viewing over much of 31,000 square mile area in the Bristol Bay region. Eighteen communities around Naknek and Dillingham would benefit.

The three new areas are (1)

the Kuskokwim river valley, (2) St. Lawrence Island and (3) the Tanana river area. Forty-five communities would benefit in these areas.

The use of television relay stations would permit the television programs to be sent from village to village.

Senator Gravel's "T.V. Now" program can, he said, "be easily and routinely integrated into the satellite television program."

This program, originally sponsored by Senator Gravel, will use communications satellites to beam television to every corner of Alaska.

Studies show that satellite transmission is the only feasible way to bring modern communications to the entire state.

development in the state, projections about the industries' future growth, the job opportunities that exist, and the particular impact that oil development will have on the native peoples of Alaska. Represented will be the Atlantic Richfield Company, Western Geophysical and the Trans Atlantic Pipeline System.

James Thomas, director of public relations for the Alaska Federation of Natives, is scheduled to give a progress report on the efforts of the AFN to secure an equitable land claims legislation.

It was largely through the efforts of the Alaska Council of Churches that the National Council of Churches adopted a resolution in December supporting the AFN position. The national council represents some 44 million members of major Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican churches in America.

The four-day meeting will also feature a panel on "Life in a Native Village" and the presentation of a research document, "A Consultation on the Church and Human Need in Alaska."

Member communions of the Alaska Council of Churches include: American Baptists, Disciples of Christ, United Presbyterian, Episcopal, Lutheran Church in America, United Methodist and the Salvation Army.

## Fort Wainwright's 'Project Hire' Trains Alaska Natives for Jobs

"The program is working, and I know it will be successful," says Mrs. Betty Rollins, Fort Wainwright's "Project Hire" coordinator. "Project Hire" is the result of an agreement last year between the Civil Service Commission and the Departments of Labor, Interior, and Defense, to establish a training and employment program for Alaska natives.

With Mr. G.L. Yoder, Civilian Personnel Officer at Fort Wainwright, acting as the Fairbanks area coordinator, the program got under way in the Fairbanks area last October.

Presently there are 18 new employees on the Eielson Air Force Base payroll, and 16 on the rolls at Fort Wainwright, with five more expected to be hired this month.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs identifies prospective employees and forwards employment applications to the Civil Service Board in Fairbanks. The majority of Fort Wainwright's new employees under the program reside on post in Civilian Bachelor Quarters.

Hired at the GS-1 or Wage Grade 1 level, "Project Hire" employees enjoy the same leave and retention benefits as other Federal Career Conditional employees.

They occupy positions ranging from clerical to carpentry, and from laundry work to warehousing, learning every phase of their jobs in on-the-job training.

For those who do not possess a high school education, a school has been set up where they are

prepared to take the General Education Development test and qualify for a high school diploma.

Following the initial year of on-the-job training, and as the educational and job skills increase the "Project Hire" employees are placed in permanent positions as they become available.

But the program involves far more than training in educational and job skills. For many new employees, it is a matter of learning a new way of life; of adjusting from village life, where survival is most important, to metropolitan living; of learning to live by the alarm clock instead of by nature's clock.

All those new employees with whom we talked agreed that it is an exciting new way of life.

## Indian Opportunity Council Meets with Spiro T. Agnew

The American Indian took his case to Washington, D.C. last month in a meeting with Vice-President Spiro Agnew and seven top department officials.

The meeting held Jan. 26 was the first of the National Council on Indian Opportunity under the Nixon administration.

Member, Willie Hensley of Kotzebue, described the White House session as encouraging and offering great potential for improving the plight of the American Indian.

The committee members sit "eyeball to eyeball with the secretaries of the departments," he said.

"I feel," he continued, "that they are going to take a pretty good look at their programs in reference to the American Indian."

Agnew, himself, said that he would diligently pursue his own responsibility in regard to the national council and wants heavy involvement of the cabinet members, Hensley added.

In addition to six Indian members and Vice President Agnew, the following department officials were at the meeting: Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin, Assistant Secretary of Commerce Robert A. Podesta, Secretary of Labor George P. Shultz, Secretary of HEW Robert H. Finch, Under-Secretary of HUD Richard C. Van Dusen, and Director of OEO Donald Rumsfeld.

During the two and a half hour meeting each of these representatives relayed what their department is currently doing in regard to Indian affairs.

The departments represented at the meeting, other than the Interior, Agnew explained, receive nearly half of the total Federal expenditures of over \$5 billion for Indians.

And the National Council on Indian Opportunity, he said, must provide the guidance for improved coordination among these departments.

"It is my purpose and the purpose of this Council to attack the raw truth and to do so effectively within the term of this administration," the Vice President said.

He then called for recommendations from the Indian members of the council and for a status report from the departments at the end of 30 days on each of the recommendations.

Each department, he continued, is to determine which of proposals it can implement immediately, which can be carried out in the next 5 years, which are feasible but will take time, and which are impossible to put in operation or not in the best interest of anybody.

In their nearly 30 pages of recommendations, the Indian members proposed that an Indian be placed at the policy and planning level in each department and that the Bureau of Indian Affairs have its own assistant secretary of the Interior or that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs be given Assistant Secretary status.

The members further recommended that the administrative structure of the BIA be analyzed—with a view toward elimination of "dead wood."

In the area of education, the Indians proposed that funding for the construction of a vast network of community schools and that the phasing out of BIA boarding schools become a policy goal.

Other recommendations called for the creation of needed services for the urban Indian and the establishment of an agency independent from both the Interior and Justice Departments to represent the tribes in all legal services required in connection with Indian rights to lands, water, and natural resources.

Still other recommendations concerned housing, agriculture, health, welfare, jurisdiction and economic development.

The Indian members of the council also voiced their support for the land settlement proposed by the Alaska Federation of Natives and urged that, in particular, the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture give their full support to the AFN proposal.

The same day of the meeting, Jan. 26, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy spoke before the executive council of the National Congress of American Indians in Washington.

Calling the Indian America's first conservationist, he cautioned them against losing further land or water rights under the guise of conservation.

"But," he added, "you must not lose sight of the conservationist objectives in your own desires to maximize development on your reservations."

The Massachusetts Senator cited several examples where land or water rights have been or are being taken away from Indians and warned, "Without vigilant protection of your rights, you will find yourselves heading, in fact if not in law, toward termination of your very existence."

To protect his rights, the Indian must have knowledge of what he owns and the extent of his rights in his property, he added.

"I think it is time," he concluded, "for you to feel free to turn your efforts to resource protection and economic and human resource development."

## False Statements Lead Bethel Man To Sentence

JUNEAU—W.H. Riley of Bethel was found guilty of making false statements in order to collect Unemployment Insurance, Commissioner of Labor Thomas J. Moore reported this week.

According to Moore, Riley failed to report that he was working and earning money while filing claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits.

He entered a plea of nolo contendere in the Bethel Magistrate Court on February 3, and was sentenced to 60 days in jail. The magistrate suspended the sentence on condition that Riley make full restitution of the \$480 he received illegally. Repayment will be made through the court.

Commissioner Moore said the fraud was discovered by Labor Department investigators during a routine audit of earnings in which former employers' reports are compared with statements of Unemployment Insurance claimants.

## CLASSIFIED

ALASKA STATE TROOPER  
State of Alaska, \$913 - \$1,092 month.  
High School graduation or an equivalency certificate; age 21 through 40; minimum height 5' 9" and weight proportional; and a resident of Alaska. APPLY IMMEDIATELY: Division of Personnel, Pouch C, Juneau 99801.



DION RIVERS (Center) operates the table saw in the Fort Wainwright Post Engineer Carpenter Shop as Frank Coletta, (left) Shop Foreman, and John Olson, Lead Supervisor (right), look on. Mr.

Rivers came from Hooper Bay as an employee under the Department of Defense "Project Hire." He is an apprentice cabinetmaker.

—USASTRATCOM Photo