

Indians Take BIA Building in D.C. ...

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were dropped on a 20 point position paper and seven demands that were prepared by the Indians.

They asked to meet with President Nixon or a suitable body of higher-ups in the governmental hierarchy who would have the authority to act on the problems. Among the demands being made is the demand for the resignation of Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior; Harrison Loesch, Assistant Sec. of the Interior; Robert Robertson, executive director of the National Council on Indian Opportunity; and John Crow, Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

They asked that Commissioner of Indian Affairs Louis Bruce be given back his authority until such executive and legislative action is implemented on their 20 point position paper.

Commissioner Bruce was in the BIA office while the takeover was in process or at least there at a later time. He appeared before the Indians and said he was with them and would remain in his office to help further their cause.

One afternoon, he was called out for a meeting, presumably with Sec. Morton. He walked out and never came back. It is believed that he was ordered by Morton not to return to BIA offices while the Indians were occupying it.

Their statement said: "We demand proper housing during our stay in Washington, D.C. We demand that commitments made to Indian people over the Johnson-O'Malley issue in Oklahoma be honored and WRITTEN to the people."

We demand that urban and landless Indians be given proper services entitled to them the same as treaty Indians. And we demand that all bones and artifacts of our ancestors be

AG Havelock ...

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ed out.

The state of Alaska will own approximately 1/8th of the oil which will be transported through the trans-Alaska pipeline. It is possibly the largest owner of resource-potential land.

"The property rights of the state of Alaska," he concluded, "are not a gimmick. They do own the property."

Havelock predicted that Native-owned corporations may be involved in oil development at a later date. The new legislation seeks to regulate tariffs so that the small producers are not at the mercy of the pipeline owners.

Bills which have come under heavy fire from the oil industry are those creating the state's Pipeline Regulatory Commission; the bill relating to Pipeline Right of Way; and those which establish procedures for setting oil and gas revenues, in particular, the intent of the state to establish a cents-per-barrel floor.

Havelock touched briefly on the long delay caused by environmentalist protest against the proposed pipeline.

The present interpretation of the National Environment Protection Act (NEPA) "affects every aspect of economic growth in this state. Every time Alaska moves," said Havelock, "it is getting buried by conservationists."

The Attorney General felt the courts are being used to solve environmental problems which would be more successfully solved in the political and legislative arenas.

Noting that the court appeals have caused expensive delays in pipeline construction, Havelock said "Time itself is part of the environmentalist mix."

restored to our people for re-burial.

Because the Indians had taken over the Bureau and no work was being done, the Attorney General of the D.C. District filed a temporary restraining order, then proceeded to issue an eviction notice to the Indians. They presented this to the Indians to get them out of the building and into the courts.

This was handed to them and they did not budge. Then Justice Department officials returned to the judge and requested that he sign a contempt of court citation against them so that the federal people could move in and make arrests.

The deadline was extended until 9 P.M. Wednesday evening. They were told, that if they were not out by this time, they would be held in contempt, and evicted.

Up until now they've remained in the building and said they will prepare to fight. Statements by leaders said they were prepared to die if necessary. They were NOT going to give up the BIA headquarters and would stay there.

They've been insisting this since last Thursday when they barricaded themselves in the building. Tonight (Monday) a little after midnight, people began to drift out of the building very inconspicuously, in twos and threes, some carrying bedrolls.

When asked where they were going, they said they were going over to the YMCA or to the Interdepartmental Auditorium which each had a few limited sleeping facilities.

When I left there, minutes before I called Tundra Times, there was only a skeleton crew left. I couldn't estimate exactly how many. You might think they've all gone to bed, but they've been leaving. Even a couple of the more militant leaders have left.

I don't know what is going to happen because this is a change of tactics, a complete turn-around.

This is the gist of the message I get from the leaders: OK, if you don't get loose and meet our demands, we're not going to give up the building without a fight. If we do have to go, we're going to take the building with us, either burn it or blow it up.

When I saw people leaving, I began to fear the time for this to happen might be quite near, unless they've deployed to take over something. Some observers are saying: What have they got up their sleeves now? Who are they going to capture? What are they going to do?

(Note: As we went to press, Tundra Times placed a call to BIA Offices in Washington, D.C. Our first call was intercepted by a master switchboard. At deadline, we finally got through and talked to an Indian girl within the building, and one of the leaders, Sid Mills, a Yakima Indian from Washington state. Mills announced that there was no longer a BIA.

"We have abolished the BIA. We now have and are in the NATIVE AMERICAN EMBASSY."

He said there were still 800-1200 Caravan people inside the building, including families and babies, who could be heard crying in the background. When asked how they had gotten control of the building, Mills answered: "We took it."

He said although they have been intimidated by the Justice Department, federal marshals, metropolitan police, and the White House, they would stay in the building. Negotiating teams were meeting with top presidential aides at the White House on election eve.)

Alaska Native Fund to Earn--

Settlement Fund Eligible to Earn at 4 Per Cent a Year

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senator Mike Gravel announced today that the Alaska Native Fund, created by the Native Claims Settlement Act, was eligible for interest payments at a rate of four percent a year.

The interest earned by the Native Fund would be added to it and disbursed to Alaskan Natives through the regional corporations upon enrollment of the Natives.

The Department of the Interior and the Department of the Treasury has disagreed as to whether the fund should be considered as an Indian Tribal Fund for the purpose of interest payment at a 4% rate under Federal law.

The Treasury Department argued that the Native Fund was not eligible since it was not a fund for Indian tribes as such, and that the language of the Claims Act did not specifically state that interest should be paid on the money in the fund.

The Interior Department, on the other hand, argued that the Alaska Native Fund should be eligible for interest since it contained money held in trust pend-

ing completion of the roll of the Natives and since Alaskan Natives are considered as entitled to the benefits due Indian tribes under other laws.

The Comptroller General of the United States was asked to arbitrate the dispute and decided that the Fund was eligible for interest.

The Comptroller General gave over-riding attention to a debate on the Claims Bill occurring in the Senate last December between Senator Gravel and Senator Alan Bible.

Senator Gravel had asked specifically if the money in the Fund was eligible for interest payments. Senator Bible responded that the House-Senate Conference Committee intended that the Secretary of the Treasury would manage and invest the fund, pending enrollment and credit "any interest so earned to that fund."

When the enrollment is completed, the total balance, including accrued interest will be paid to regional corporations in accordance with the bill," Senator Bible said.

Senator Gravel said that this

dialogue was the primary basis for today's decision by the Comptroller General. "My exchange with Senator Bible on the Senate floor showed clearly that Congress intended that interest be earned by the Alaska Native Fund," he said.

The Alaska Native Fund will ultimately consist of \$462,500, 000 from the State of Alaska, and from the US for mineral royalties and lease rentals.

"Today's decision," Senator Gravel said, "means, for example, that the \$62.5 million already paid into the fund by the Federal Government will earn \$2.5 million dollars a year."

As more money is paid into the fund, and as the interest is reinvested, this interest will augment the Fund considerably.

"It is only proper that the money in the Fund be considered as an asset for the Natives in our State. I have been urging for sometime that such funds not be kept in suspension but be treated as the property of the ultimate recipients of the money."

Kotzebue Protests Against CAB--

Town Claims Its Interests Were Not Represented

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW
Staff Writer

On September 25, 1972, the Civil Aeronautics Board of Washington, D.C., cancelled Alaska Airlines rights to serve the cities of Nome, Kotzebue, and Unalakleet, thereby relegating those communities to dependence on a single carrier, Wien Consolidated Airlines.

The City of Kotzebue, a remotely located Eskimo village situated on Kotzebue Sound in the extreme Northwestern portion of the state, has a population of approximately 2000. There is no access to Kotzebue other than by air.

News of the September 25 cancellation of Alaska Airlines' service came as a total surprise to this small community with so vital an interest in air transportation.

The City of Kotzebue has now petitioned to be allowed to intervene in the matter and has requested that the CAB reconsider and rehear the case.

Kotzebue claims that the interests of the city were not represented in prior proceedings before the board, "resulting in the creation of an incomplete record and the failure to account for the peculiar needs of a remote and impoverished area."

Information on which the Board based its determination was gathered in 1969 and is now almost a full four years out of date. The Kotzebue brief makes a strong assertion that the economic picture painted in 1969 is not even remotely applicable in 1972-73.

The 1969 records offered little evidence that the Nome-Kotzebue route would achieve economic success. However, due to the development of tour packages, largely by Alaska Airlines, the 1972 figures show a very different picture.

In 1972, Alaska Airlines transported 10,000 tourists through the City of Kotzebue.

"It is of monumental importance," they noted, "that only 1.9 per cent of these tourists were residents of the state of Alaska."

Nome joined Kotzebue in giving credit to Alaska Airlines for their nationwide promotion. Both communities fear that

Wien, because it is an intra-state rather than an inter-state carrier, will not have the capacity to maintain the level of tourism achieved by Alaska Airlines.

Wien flew 1,000 tourists into Nome in 1972 as compared to 10,022 brought in by Alaska Airlines. Should that city lose its tour industry, it predicted that as many as one-third of the retail businesses will be seriously affected.

It would appear that package tours not only resulted in profitability for Alaska Airlines, who stated they were willing to continue service with no subsidy, it also brought a healthy growth in related industries within the two communities: hotels, restaurants, gift shops, native arts and crafts, and many more.

109 persons were directly employed by the airline in Nome, Kotzebue, and Unalakleet, and many supporting jobs were created in related activities. Should the influx of tourists fall off drastically, those communities and smaller bush villages nearby would suffer dire economic setback.

For this reason, Kotzebue, "with great reluctance and only in the face of absolute necessity and to prevent further hardship for its peoples...authorized the expenditure of its tax funds to intervene in this matter."

For a small community battling for its very life and making daily choices of priorities from a prodigious list of "absolute musts", the decision to intervene meant the sacrifice of other much needed public services.

The little city bravely took a stand. Bush Alaska must be heard.

"The peculiar and compelling interests of the residents of bush Alaska had not been fully voiced."

They sought to make the CAB aware that there was a need for a determination to be made "more in line with facts and circumstances peculiar to an Eskimo village and its problems."

What are some of those problems?

Virtually all of Alaska's milk products, meat, and produce are air-freighted from the lower 48. "It is imperative that the residents of these villages, often the victims of abject poverty, be af-

forded the opportunity to receive these staples in usable condition at the lowest possible costs."

The possible effect that lack of competition will have on the price of all goods coming into the community was expressed by the bulk of businessmen. Medicine, mail, movies, machinery parts, and an entire spectrum of needed goods arrive by air.

Emergency medical evacuation is a common crisis in the Arctic, critically short on hospital facilities. With two carriers operating, frequent flight and direct connections to life-saving urban centers offer the best hopes of immediate care.

Every link to the outside world, whether to their representatives in the legislature in Juneau, to a doctor in Seattle, or to a relative in Fairbanks or Anchorage, is dependent on air service.

The city is asking that its single link to this world not be impaired by administrative fiat. Kotzebue is one village speaking out. It is a relatively large village compared to many bush communities.

If it was a sacrifice and a hardship for Kotzebue to raise the funds to intervene in a matter vitally concerning the economic survival of its people, it remains to be seen how countless smaller, less accessible communities will fare in the next phases of the CAB hearings on bush service.

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The other 2,000 applications represent every state in the Union and a host of foreign countries. Non-resident Alaskan Natives live in a total of 1,700 different communities through out the world.

The Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act, which signed into law by President Nixon on December 18, 1971, granted Alaskan Natives 40 million acres of land and close to a billion dollars.

Anyone who is a least one-quarter Alaskan Native may write Alaska Native Enrollment Office, Box 7-1971(B), Anchorage, Alaska 99510.