

Publisher's Notes

THE GOOD NEWS...

The proposed Red Dog zinc mine will become a reality. The legislature passed, in the waning days of the 1985 Session, a bill that will provide state-backed financing of construction of port facilities as well as a 57-mile road from the port to the mine site.

There is little doubt that Governor Sheffield will sign into law the bill that will allow \$175 million in loans which will virtually guarantee development of the Red Dog mine in the Northwest Arctic.

With declining oil revenue, economic gloom and doom is pervading nearly every aspect of public life these days, Red Dog has become a bright spot in the future for Alaska.

Red Dog means jobs for Alaskans, not only during the construction of the port and road, but during the operation of the mine. This translates into long-term development, not a "quick-fix" for the economic troubles ahead.

Cominco, Ltd. is a "world class" firm, and NANA Regional Corporation has a reputation for being culturally and environmentally conscious. With these two partners in the lead, the Red Dog zinc mine is certain to become a model project for future development in Alaska.

Passage of the Red Dog funding bill is good news for all Alaskans.

THE BAD NEWS...

The laws and regulations for Subsistence Hunting and Fishing in Alaska have become a tangled mess. The Senate, during the 1985 Session now passed, refused to pass a bill that would untangle some of the knots in the Subsistence dilemma. Senator Abood sat on the bill to the bitter end, and his efforts may hatch more than he bargained for.

Governor Sheffield may call a Special Session of the Legislature this summer, and the Subsistence dilemma may be solved, but not soon enough to quell the uneasiness that's developing between rural and urban Alaskans.

Federal intervention in Alaskan affairs is undesirable, but the threat of it looms ever nearer as the squabbles continue over what to do about regulating subsistence hunting and fishing. Whether the Feds can do a better job than the State authorities is not the issue. The primary question is can Alaskans recognize the need for having a law in the first place.

Senator Abood has stated that more study of the Subsistence issue is needed, and that may be true. More study of the issue may help Senator Abood better understand his responsibilities, but it won't help Alaskans this summer as they try to figure out whether they are obeying the law or not.

The inability of the Senate to pass a bill on Subsistence is bad news for all Alaskans.