

Bethel Model Cities Application Not Approved, Senators Protest

The application of Bethel for the model cities program was not approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

And Senators Bob Bartlett and Ernest Gruening have written a letter to Department Secretary Robert C. Weaver expressing "deep disappointment and dismay" at the decision.

Last week, the Department announced a list of 65 projects in 63 cities which would take place in the model cities program. They are in 33 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The program will combine all known means—federal, state, local and private—to provide social, physical and economic improvements in specified neighborhoods.

The cities will share \$11 million in planning funds and \$300 million in supplemental grants and extra urban renewal funds. A second set of cities will be chosen at a later date.

In their letter, the senators stated: "it was the intent of Congress when the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 was passed that cities, suffering the dreadful ills of poverty, joblessness, squalor and disease, were to be helped in their efforts to

improve basic living conditions.

"We do not believe that there was another applicant city which could match the need for assistance we find in Bethel."

The senators pointed out that Bethel has nearly 100 percent incidence of tuberculosis, an in-migration which boosted elementary school enrollment 37½ percent in one year, and unemployment of a majority of its residents.

"While it is true that Alaska's only congressman voted to reduce funds for the Model Cities program and to cut the authorization for funds to support the War on

Poverty, we do not believe that the people of the Bethel area should be made to suffer for this," said Bartlett and Gruening.

"On the contrary, the Bethel area so well demonstrates the need for these programs that the residents of the community should be given every means the federal government offers to encourage their strong desire to improve their lives.

"We must insist, even demand, that Bethel's application be approved... The federal government cannot through omission forsake its promises to Alaska's needy people."

BIA Teachers Learn Eskimo at Barrow

By GUY OKAKOK
Barrow Correspondent

BARROW, (Special) —Rev. Webster, who with Dr. Roy Ahmaogak translated the New Testament into Eskimo language. Now after these two men had finished completed the whole Testament, people here, not here alone, but all over are anxious to see it placed here and there anytime so that they could learn more from them.

And right now, Rev. Webster had been teaching Eskimo language every week in the old school. People here are learning to read well. Even teachers here are learning to read very well.

One morning while I was working, I heard a voice from behind in Eskimo language, our own language, saying, "Su-moak-si-vich" meaning, "Where am I going?"

When I turned around, there I recognize him one of the BIA teacher. I answered him, also in my own language, "Aniak-si-run-ya," meaning, "I'm going out."

Teachers are learning fast to pronounce our language well.

HEARINGS

FROM BOTH SIDES

In the meeting this evening, councils President Eben Hopson opened the floor for the audience, this was to discuss whether the village

people of Barrow will wanted to see the bar or package store placed.

Several people in general meeting was against it and also some wanted it, also the hearing from one person said, why can't they try and put it here for one year, and if it doesn't work, well, they could erase the whole work again.

Even though this hearing was brought up by the person, lots of them don't want it placed in yet.

Some said village could have or make money from sale tax and from this tax, they could build something what village could have even people could be protected.

The next hearing from one of the council member is, even though the Barrow village is dry, the councils still have over \$5,000.00 which they still have and there are few thousands dollars yet which they expected to collect, which the other business people never did turn it over to the councils.

Don't get me wrong, this money from sales taxes were supposed to turned over from the stores.

I wish I could write the whole thing down, probably I WILL later on. For mean time now, they did not settle it, as it was getting late.

Next meeting will be five days from now on.

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More Jobs and More Railroad Planned by State Commission

Extension of the Alaska Railroad to Northwestern Alaska, and training of Alaskan Native people to fill jobs created by this extension, came another step closer at the meeting of the State Commission on Northern Operations of Rail Transportation and Highways last week in Washington, D. C.

The commission voted to spend up to \$225,000 on studies calling for extension of the railroad.

And Office of Economic Opportunity Director Sargent Shriver said his agency is "not only willing but eager" to make a major investment in educational and training programs for Alaska.

A study prepared by William B. Saunders of Washington, D. C. indicated that the 400-mile Alaska Railroad extension from Fairbanks to the Kobuk River copper deposits would cost \$166 million.

Saunders said the copper ore there has been reported at three to four times the value of some produced in other states.

Federal officials from several agencies gave support to the commission, saying that improved trans-

portation facilities are needed to develop the state's mineral resources.

The commission voted to spend up to \$50,000 for a study to show the federal government why the railroad should be extended and up to \$175,000 for a route study for the first one-third of the route.

It hopes to have a survey crew working on the route early next year.

Sargent Shriver told the commission that it may be possible to set up a project with the University of Alaska, through the Vista program, to train men for the survey.

He explained that the OEO has a special task force studying ways to "do extra" for Alaska. Shriver said his agency would expand its programs if Congress approves a reasonable appropriation for it.

"We are interested in trying to help people prepare for work," Shriver said.

Bob Arnold of the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska urged the commission to plan for the welfare of the 1,000 Native people living along the route, and to employ them if possible.

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