

ASCAP BOARD IN QUANDRY

Charges of Hiring & Firing Discrimination Levelled at Board

By HOWARD ROCK

POINT HOPE (Special)—The Alaska State Community Action Program board of directors' meeting at Point Hope this week began its work with a heated session, minutes after the chairman called it to order.

Willard Bowman, executive director of the State Commission on Human Rights, furnished the fuel when he charged that the officials of the ASCAP were guilty of discrimination in their hiring and firing practices.

Bowman's charges on the main part involved two former ASCAP employees who were fired, Barbara Trigg of Nome and Robert Peratrovich of Anchorage.

Barbara Trigg, an Eskimo, was employed as a regional coordinator in the Nome area and Peratrovich, a Tlingit Indian, as the director of Head Start working out of that city.

The two former ASCAP employees had entered formal complaints with Bowman's Commission. Miss Trigg filed her complaint on Feb. 16, 1968, and Peratrovich on March 19, 1968.

Willard Bowman made a

lengthy testimony to the ASCAP Board regarding the two complainants. During his prepared remarks before making the Commission's recommendations that Miss Trigg and Peratrovich be reinstated with retroactive pay, Bowman declared in part:

"...Before you today are two complaints alleging discriminatory hiring and firing practices. We of the Commission have stated we have uncovered facts which support these allegations.

"However, the issue is much deeper than that. The question at issue goes into the very basic philosophy of the OEO (Office of Economic Opportunity) program itself..."

As the charges were made by Bowman, Larry Brayton, executive director of ASCAP, sat uneasily in his chair. When Bowman finally finished, Brayton several times raised his hand saying the other side of the issue should be heard.

He was prevented from doing so by discussions and motions, one of which was to allow him to do this at an executive session.

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Brayton objected to this saying that since Bowman made his charges at a public meeting, he should have the right to make remarks on his and ASCAP's behalf.

"I'm the one who is charged here—I'm the one who's been dragged through the mud..." said Brayton.

Roy Madsen, attorney and

ASCAP board member from Kodiak said that "these are one-sided charges. It is unfortunate that they were brought out in this manner."

Motion to hear out Brayton in the executive session prevailed with the understanding that the matter would also be taken up at the public meeting following the session.

This was changed, however, and the board members

decided to continue the executive session in Anchorage when it met on the morning of April 24 which was the continuation of the executive session in the late hours of April 23 and into the early morning hours.

After the Anchorage session, the ASCAP board will release a statement in connection with the commission on Human Rights' charge of discrimination.

Larry Brayton when asked what he thought of the charges stated:

"For me it's more important what the people of Alaska think when given both sides of the story.

"These charges are totally untrue—blown up completely out of all proportion especially when considered that Miss Trigg was terminated at the end of that particular program on December 31, 1967.

"At that time, 30 other Alaskans were also terminated. We are now in a new program that Miss Trigg was involved in and for the first time, the people in Northwest Alaska have been organized and have been hiring their own people."