

## Bush Social Services

JUNEAU—The Federal Government has approved \$416,000 for the third and final phase of the Nation's first Rural Area Social Services Demonstration Project, Governor Keith H. Miller announced this week.

The approval represents final project funding of more than \$800,000 of Federal funds. The State will contribute \$10,300 to be applied against the salaries of 23 personnel for the last 15 days of the project.

Primary purpose of the project is to train and develop natives to function as human service aides within their own and adjacent villages in providing social services to village residents.

Upon completion of the third phase on December 1, 1970, the aides will be retained as full-time employees of the Division of Public Welfare to assist in social services programs in the villages.

Commissioner J. W. Betit, whose Department of Health and Welfare coordinates the program, said that the formal training received through the Anchorage

Community College and the supervised job experience of the aides will enable them to provide realistic social services to persons living in remote areas.

Continued use of the aides will enable the State to provide meaningful assistance to rural families with alcohol, marital, and child-parent problems, and to assist village councils in recognizing and solving common problems at the village level.

## Kodiak Hospital

JUNEAU—Governor Keith H. Miller announced that a check for \$35,084 has been sent to Borough Chairman Wilton White at Kodiak as the sixth and final payment of State funds contributed to the Kodiak Island Borough Hospital.

The 25-bed hospital dedicated last April was funded jointly by the Nation, State and Borough at a total cost of \$1,240,000. Federal Hill-Burton Funds amounted to \$496,000. The State and Borough each contributed \$372,000.

## Miller Stands Firm...

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the income taxes for those with an income of less than \$3,000, the elimination of the \$10 head tax for schools, and the implementation of assistance to the remote housing program.

Like Notti, Hensley did not seem to feel the governor's school program would meet the educational needs in the rural areas.

In particular, he too stressed the necessity for high schools in the rural areas so that students would not have to leave the state.

The governor's school program was directed largely to organized boroughs, Hensley said, not the unorganized borough which includes most of rural Alaska.

"He does not seem to be really getting at the root of the problem of poverty," the state representative said.

"It is not a matter of needing more welfare," he continued, "it is a matter of needing new and imaginative programs."

Little evidence has been offered, he added, that the vast wealth of the state will filter down to the little guy.

In addition to a regional high school program in rural Alaska, Hensley called for a program to deal with the problems of unemployment in the unorganized borough areas.

On this last matter he explained that the rural areas need a vehicle by which they can become involved in the revenue sharing program that has been supported by Miller. The governor called for such sharing in the area of education, and water and sewer facilities.

On the land claims issue, Notti and Hensley said that the governor's position is the same as it had been before.

Miller reiterated in his speech that it is the responsibility of the federal government, not the state, to settle the land claims question.

"I do not think he realizes the possibility of cooperation between the natives and the state on this issue," Hensley said.

The legislative council agreed that it would like to see the state participate, but the governor

is not giving the suggestion any impetus, he added.

However Hensley said that he was not really disappointed, because he had not expected the governor to change his position.

Notti stressed, "I don't think the governor understands yet what it is all about, and I don't think that he is looking at the problem objectively."

## Sen. Merdes...

(Continued from page 1)

fore you start. In addition, you have to consider the costs involved and whether the funds can be raised.

"One important consideration that I am concerned about is the need for geographical balance in our representation in Congress."

He stated that if he were to make such a decision in the future that the announcement would be made from his home, Fairbanks.

## Prof. Bedford...

(Continued from page 1)

Ethel Stoneman, who works along with, and races with, the North American Dog Mushing Association in Fairbanks, called Tundra Times this week and asked if the paper would have an entry in the race for the news media.

When told that Jimmy Bedford drove the Tundra Times entry last year, she chuckled. Bedford was contacted and asked whether he would again drive the paper's entry.

"Great—great, I'll drive!" he answered gleefully.

"You mean those dogs will pull him?" queried Bonnie Ericson, Tundra Times all around Girl Friday. "Poor things."

Her editor told her that Bedford will probably run with the dogs part of the time but Bonnie's answering glance wasn't very convincing.

Prof. Bedford was asked how he did last year when he raced: "I think I came in next to the last," he said. "I think there was someone behind me."

He also had alibis: "One thing—those dogs took turns going to the bathroom and they took their time. They were nice dogs though and they looked at me and wagged their tails."

Prof. Bedford is in charge of the journalism department at the University of Alaska.

The race will start at 1:00 p.m. if the weather stays above 15 below zero.

## Need Judges

JUNEAU—Governor Keith H. Miller said the Judicial Council has informed him that it is unable to find a sufficient number of qualified applicants to nominate for four District Court judgeship vacancies.

Mike Stepovich, Acting Chairman of the Judicial Council, told the Governor in a letter that only four applications had been received and he pointed out that the law specified that the Council must nominate two or more persons for each vacancy. The Governor is to make the final selection.

There are vacancies in Kodiak, Sitka, Wrangell and one in Anchorage.

In his letter to Miller, Stepovich said the Council "is of the opinion that it has an insufficient number of qualified applicants from which to nominate."

He added, "The Council deeply regrets the apparent disinterest in these important judicial positions. After an appropriate interval we shall no doubt try again."

"However, for the time being the Judicial Court is notifying the presiding judges of the Superior courts of the situation in order that they might make an attempt to find qualified persons to serve as temporary judges," Stepovich wrote.

He said the Council received one application each for Anchorage and Wrangell, two for the position at Sitka and no applications for the Kodiak position.

## AFN Stands Firm on Claims...

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until a bill is passed.

In addition, the organization hopes to expand its efforts and to open an office there, depending on financial resources, Borbridge said.

As the Washington effort grows, the vice-president continued, the AFN plans to reach organizations all over the United States that would have a natural sympathy for the natives cause and to encourage them to write their own Congressional representatives.

MEANWHILE, the AFN holds as a top priority, the continuation of the effort in the villages of Alaska, Borbridge said.

The Washington campaign will be tough, he continued, because the land claims issue is a unique situation and Alaska is a unique state—both making it difficult for members of the House and Senate to appreciate the complexity of the situation and the reasonableness of the proposal of the natives.

"It is difficult for a Congressman from a small state to realize the reasonableness of the natives' request for 40 million acres."

"Above all, it is difficult for the representatives to appreciate the depth of feeling and strong determination of the natives."

MENTIONING that the bill can be influenced in the Senate committee (where it now is), on the House floor, and then in the House-Senate compromise committee, Borbridge stressed that the AFN must obtain all the support it can all along this route.

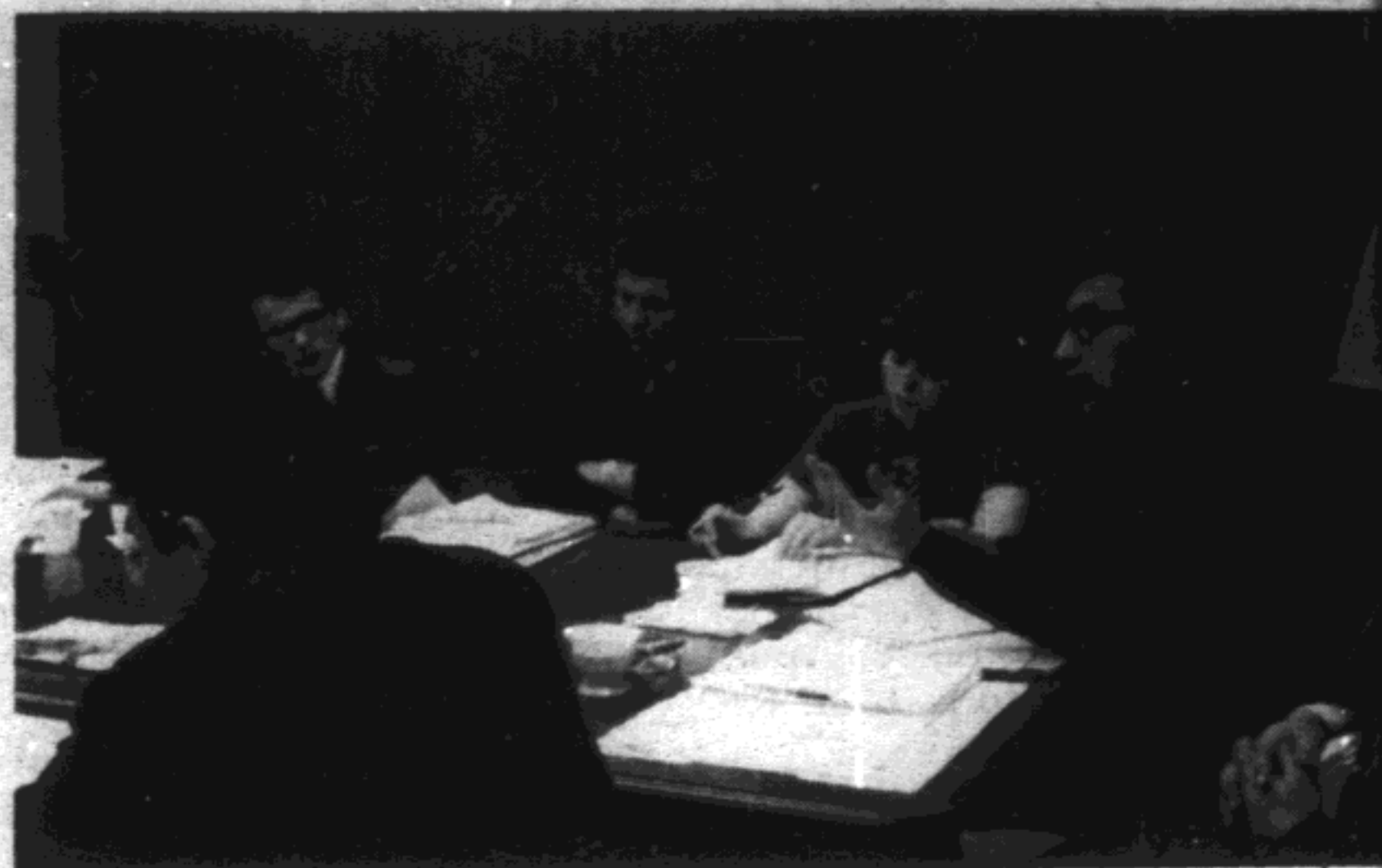
As the federation goes to the villages and the nation seeking for its proposal, it will also seek the financial aid necessary to carry out the effort.

Some mention has been made that the State legislature might consider appropriating money for the settlement of the land claims issue.

On this matter, an AFN spokesman said that the federation has no plans for action if such legislation is introduced.

But, the organization will be following the matter closely and will act if necessary.

OTHER CONCERNS of the



AFN BOARD MEETING—At the federation board meeting last weekend in Anchorage, the board remained firm on its claims stand.



THE PAUSE—During coffee break, Jerome Trigg, left, and Jerry Ivey, center, stopped to discuss the claims issue. Third man not identified.

—Photos by SHOWALTER SMITH

board centered around internal affairs of the AFN.

Both Borbridge and Ketzler seemed to feel that the board members had successfully risen to meet the challenge of a ever-growing organization.

"I feel that a lot of the board members went away from the meeting with a better understanding of the day-to-day operations of the federation and should be able to answer questions on these matters raised by their constituents," Ketzler said.

Borbridge saw this concern for in-house matters as an example of the changing nature of the board.

Before now, he explained, the board has had to respond only to emergencies such as the land claims issue, but now it is assuming a more sophisticated, more complex, and more responsible rule.

The AFN, he continued, is becoming a part of big business and thus must become immersed in the details of its in-house organization.

WHILE GROWING programs and responsibilities are, on the one-hand, beneficial they, on the other hand present a danger to the federation—that danger being that the organization, as it grows in numbers and power, will grow away from the people who are its reason for being.

According to Borbridge, as the AFN accepts more responsibility, it must make sure that the people retain a sense of identity and participation with it "so that we grow together and not apart."

And, if the people and the organization grow apart, the vice-president said, the programs would fail due to a lack of support.

Thus, he continued, the role of the board member as he informs his constituents is most important.

"We must be sure that the people are charting the way with us," he stressed.

Ideally, he continued, the regional representative would attend the board meeting where he would obtain information and

printed material. Then in his regional office, he would duplicate the material and send it out to the villages. The villages would have a meeting and then feed back information to the regional representative and finally to the AFN board of directors.

IN REALITY, Borbridge said, the regions do not have the funds with which to duplicate material and the representatives do not have the time to visit each village in their region.

There are over 200 small villages in the state, he stressed.

While the total figure for AFN grants is impressive, the vice-president said, much of this money has been earmarked and can not be used for the regional organizations.

As discussed at the board meeting, the AFN is applying for a Ford Economic Study Grant.

The money would be used to hire professional expertise for a study of what the AFN should do with any settlement resulting from the passage of a land claims bill in Congress.

PRESENT AT THE meeting were: Emil Notti, president; John Borbridge, first vice-president; Eben Hopson, second vice-president; Flore Lekanof, Aleut League; Jerome Trigg, Arctic Native Brotherhood; Joe Upickson, Arctic Slope Native Association; Cecil Barnes, Chugach Native Association; Don Wright, Cook Inlet Native Association;

Roy Ewan Copper River Indian Association; Sam Kito, Fairbanks Native Association; George Miller, Kenaitze Indian Association; Fred Bismark, Native Village of Tyonek; Willie Hensley, Executive Director of the AFN, George Ondola, Native Village of Eklutna;

Byron Mallott, Alaska Native Brotherhood; Alfred Ketzler, deputy director of AFN and Tanana Chiefs; James Thomas, Tlingit and Haida Indians; Gerald Ivey, Upper Kuskokwim Native Association; Phillip Guy, Alaska Village Council President.

Although no date has been set, Borbridge said, another meeting will be held before March 1.

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