



ASNA EYES SLOPE BOROUGH



EGAN GREETES NATIVE—Gov. William A. Egan is greeting an unidentified Eskimo woman during one of the receptions soon after his inauguration as Governor of the State of Alaska. The sparkling

affair came off handsomely in spite of hurricane gusts of wind at the state capitol last Saturday.

—STU ROTHMAN Photograph

First Legal Steps Are Being Made Toward Home Rule Borough

By MADELYN SHULMAN
Staff Writer

The city of Barrow and the Arctic Slope Native Association are taking the first legal steps toward organizing a new borough—a borough which would cover the entire Arctic Slope and give them control over development of the Prudhoe Bay oil fields.

With a tax base maintained by oil and other rich resource development revenues, the borough form of government would enable the Native communities of the Arctic Slope to run their own local services and exercise control over Arctic development.

"We want complete control of our lands," explained ASNA president Joe Upiksoun on the move towards incorporation. "These are some of the beautiful ways available to accomplish self determination." Incorporation would give the Arctic Slope population control over development of the region regardless of the outcome of a land claims settlement.

According to Local Affairs Agency head Byron Mallott, the move towards a borough form of government is entirely feasible.

"There is no real reason why a borough should not be formed," he explained. The Local

Affairs Agency would process any request for borough status. "The formal process by which they request organization of the area into a borough has not started. However, the ASNA has contracted a private consulting firm to assist them in preparation and their attorneys (Fred Paul and James Wickwire of Seattle) are also looking into it."

According to Title 7 of the Alaska Statutes, an area must fulfill four main qualifications for a first class borough.

"The population of the area proposed for incorporation shall be interrelated and integrated as to its social, cultural and economic activities. The population shall be qualified and willing to assume the duties arising out of incorporation, shall have a clear understanding of the nature of the undertaking for which

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Egan Proposes 'Landmark' Goals

Focusing his administration's efforts on what he termed three "landmark goals" for Alaska, William A. Egan officially began his third term as Governor of Alaska on Saturday.

Foremost among the three essential goals which Egan outlined in his 20 minute inaugural speech in Juneau is the settlement of the Native Land Claims. The other two landmark goals are the building of a pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez and the development of an economic de-

velopment policy for the state.

"First, we must achieve, with the help of Congress, a just settlement of the Native Land Claims," the Governor said. A crowd of approximately 1700 persons gathered in the Juneau-Douglas high school to watch Chief Justice George Boney swear in Egan and his lieutenant Governor H.A. Boucher.

"There will be no progress without it. The Native land claims should be viewed not as an obstacle, but as opportunity.

"By enhancing the opportunity for self-development," the

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Don Wright's Pipeline Route Idea of Weeks Ago Makes News

A proposal which AFN President Don Wright advanced to help speed the building of a pipeline made news in Anch-

orage last week, several weeks after Wright suggested his proposal to an AFN board meeting in Juneau.

The AFN President is trying to develop an agreement to ask the Secretary of the Interior to grant in trust land along the pipeline route to the four native groups holding claim to that land. This is the same

legal procedure used to set up Indian reservations.

The native groups would then lease the land to the pipeline company pending settlement of the Native land claims by Congress.

"Congress might revoke the reservation," Wright said defending his proposal, "or they might permit it to be in the land portion of the land claim settlement."

The proposal, he said, would be a temporary measure designed to expedite the pipeline and give Alaskan Native organizations some operational capital.

Four Native groups would be involved in this proposal. These are the Arctic Slope Native Association, the Tanana Chiefs, the Chugach Native Association and the Copper River Native Association.

The AFN President said he had received agreement from all four regional associations to investigate such a possibility.

Wright will probably be opposed by groups such as the ASNA, which feels any concession to the oil pipeline might jeopardize prompt settlement of

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Hickel Fields Varied Press Questions

Walter Hickel returned to Fairbanks last Thursday, buoyant and apparently unfazed by the past few weeks which plunged him from the President's Cabinet into a career as a public speaker and possible future political candidate.

Speaking to the Farthest North Press Club on January 7, Hickel fielded questions on the future of the pipeline, Native land claims, conservation, Alaskan politics and the ever present question of the last few weeks.

"Why," they asked in Fairbanks, as did newsmen in Washington, Seattle, Anchorage and other places, "do you think President Nixon fired you?"

Hickel flies to Washington and New York this coming week to sort out the multitude of speaking requests he has received since his firing. He cited plans for several television specials during the next few months and

a speaking schedule which will allow him to maintain Anchorage as his base and run his Alaskan business.

Questions which the Press Club members directed toward the former Alaskan governor included whether the oil pipeline will go ahead this spring if Native land claims are not settled, the possibility of the Alaska Federation of Natives realizing its demands for 60 million acres of land and the future of conservation in Alaska.

"From a technical standpoint, the regulations acceptable to government and industry make the pipeline ready to go by spring or summer," said Hickel.

He did not believe settlement of the Native Land Claims would be a prerequisite.

Hickel was pessimistic about chances for the AFN's success in obtaining the 60 million acres of land and 2 per cent overriding

royalty on mineral resources they are asking from Congress.

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Paper's Stockholders Annual Meeting Feb. 5

The board of directors of the Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc., the company that publishes the Tundra Times, has set the date for the annual stockholders meeting.

The meeting will be at the basement banquet room of the Villa Restaurant, 1510 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska. The time: 7:00 p.m., February 5, 1971.

Letters of notification of the meeting date are being mailed to stockholders throughout Alaska. Attached to the letters

are proxy forms to be filled out by each stockholder who may be unable to attend the meeting.

The stockholders will hold the initial meeting during which they will be informed about the financial status of the EIAPC. The stockholders will then hold election of the board of directors.

Immediately after the election of the board, the regular monthly meeting of the company's officers will follow.