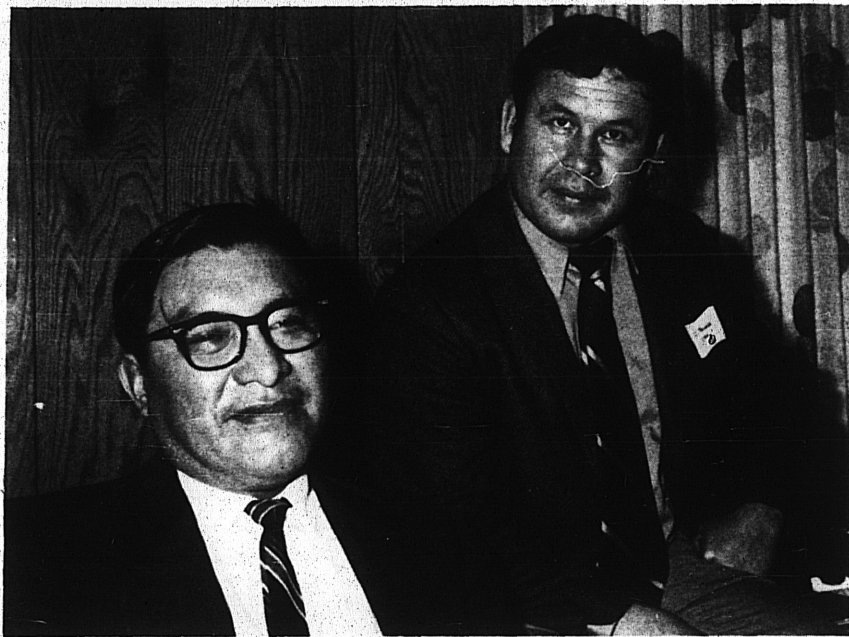




COMMISSIONER of Indian Affairs Louis R. Bruce (center) explained changes in BIA policy to members of the newly formed Indian Press Association in Denver last week. Looking on

are (left) Pearl Warren, editor of the Seattle Indian Center News and Jon Colvin of the Navajo Dine Baa-Hani.



TWO NEWSPAPER EDITORS who are deeply involved in the newly formed Indian Press Association are its president, Jim Jefferson of

the Southern Ute Drum (left) and director Charles Trimble, former editor of the Denver Indian Times. —MADELYN SHULMAN Photos

Gravel Urges Interstate Commerce Commission to Not Raise Fr. Rates

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) has urged the Interstate Commerce Commission to deny any increase, "at this time," in Alaska Railroad freight rates.

Additionally, the Senator has called for an investigation by the U.S. General Accounting Office of "the rationale behind the Rate Increase Notice and the possible link between Government and private railroads to generally increase transportation costs throughout the United States."

In a letter to ICC Chairman George M. Stafford, Senator Gravel presented his own "vigorous objection to any rate increase at this time" and also endorsed the previous objections filed by the State of Alaska.

"I believe a denial of the rate increase is most in order in light of the inflationary spiral escalated by a Department of the United States Government itself," he declared.

The Senator pointed out that "Alaska is in a unique position with respect to cargo movements.

It is non-contiguous with other states and therefore highly dependent on waterborne cargo. The main surface link for cargo is the Alaska Railroad.

"The railroad's own rates and its inter-relationship with water carriers determine, to a large measure, the costs of goods and materials in Interior Alaska, where 80 % of all Alaskans reside.

"In view of the importance of this latest increase to Alaska, I believe the increase must be suspended and accompanied by a thorough investigation order."

In a separate letter to U.S. Comptroller General Elmer B. Staats, Senator Gravel asked that the General Accounting Office conduct an investigation of the rationale behind the Rate Increase Notice.

The Senator said he feels "the issue of rate increase is prejudicial to the best interests of the national economy and places an additional and unneeded burden on the taxpayers."

"Such a rate increase as 15 per cent could start a domino

effect throughout the freight-hauling network of the United States, raising consumer prices everywhere," Senator Gravel warned.

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Distruction of Gas Urged by Begich

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Alaska's Congressman-Elect Nick Begich has called for the immediate destruction of all lethal gas stockpiling in Alaska.

In a letter to the President, Congressman Begich indicated that the U.S. Army was grossly negligent in the handling of the stockpiling of 200 cylinders of deadly nerve gas that sank to the bottom of a lake at Fort Greely military reservation.

The loss of the deadly gas was unnoticed for almost 2½ years.

Begich said, "Whenever lethal weapons are stored or handled, it is incumbent upon the Army to exercise extraordinary care."

In his letter to the President, Congressman-Elect Begich said, "the issues involved are not ones drawn along partisan lines or philosophical differences. The question is whether or not we are going to continue to jeopardize our citizens to the possibility of immeasurable damage."

Congressman-Elect Begich

continued in his strong letter to the President and said, "I strongly urge you, as Commander in Chief, to order the complete and immediate destruction of all such weapon stockpiling in Alaska and that you assure us that such stockpiling will not take place again."

In similar letters to Secretary of the Army Resor and F. Edward Herbert of the Armed Services Committee, the Congressman-Elect called for a complete investigation of the matter.

The findings of the Army, so far, do not indicate why there was a delay of almost 2½ years before the loss was discovered.

"In effect," he added, "the people in Alaska are exposed to unwarranted danger. The grossly negligent handling of the munitions is inexcusable and I strongly urge the responsible parties to free this area from further danger."

Chief Katlain Got His Allotment

Mrs. Esther Littlefield of Sitka mailed SEACAP a copy of a statement handed down by her grandfather Chief Katlain signed by Territorial Governor Swineford, dated March 1, 1889.

This document states that Katlain "Jacob" has a legal claim to a parcel of land in Whale Bay in Baranof Island." It states in part:

"...He asks for this paper as a suggestion or warning to whiteman who may attempt to possess themselves of the fishing station or privilege that he claims same as his by virtue of the provisions of the Act of May 17, 1884.

"I desire to add that in my opinion his claim is a perfectly valid one, under the law, and that any white man or men who attempt to dispossess him will do so at his or their peril..."

The document was signed by A.P. Swineford, Governor.

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