



INAUGURAL BUFFET—The newly formally installed Governor of Alaska William A. Egan is officially opening the inaugural buffet by

serving his wife Neva a delicious piece of fried chicken. —STU ROTHMAN Photograph

## William Egan Inauguration...

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governor said, "the ability of all the people of the state to move forward will be guaranteed. For this state cannot survive with half of its people enslaved by poverty."

"Secondly," the governor listed, "we must build the pipeline from the North Slope oil fields to Valdez which will be necessary to the development of the human resources of our people."

"We should welcome, even be flattered, by this show of concern by Americans throughout the nation," the governor remarked on conservation concerns which have held up the pipeline. "This points up Alaska's unique position as the last great, unspoiled state in the nation."

"And through a combination of good conservation practices together with good business, the pipeline can be built. It is folly

to say there are insurmountable challenges. The technology is available. We have the know-how."

"And human poverty, ignorance and disease cannot be allowed to wait upon the more luxurious, and understandable, desires of those who have been fortunate enough to escape these bonds."

"The construction of the pipeline, the enterprise generated through a Native claims settlement and the renewal of Alaska through the investment of our commonwealth hold both promise and dangers for the people of our state," the governor said, introducing his third landmark goal.

This is the development of an economic plan for Alaskans.

"We must develop and implement an Alaskan economic

policy," Egan said.

"It should be an objective of an integrated Alaskan economic policy to respond firmly to inflationary pressures, not only to still unreasonable surges but also to bring Alaska's cost economy closer to par with the rest of the United States."

Such a policy, the governor said, would smooth the excesses of development and plan for a wise use of the land in Alaska.

The governor's inaugural, which attracted over 1200 out-of-town Alaskans, was held despite 90 knot winds which forced cancellation of plans for an inaugural parade.

The gale-like gusts sent the wind chill factor in Juneau down to -35 degrees, some of the worst weather seen in that city in years.

## Facility to House Hotel, Offices—

## Barrow Toils on Airport Facility

Barrow developers are working against time to obtain commitments from the state government to lease office space in their proposed air terminal facility—before their time limits run out on leases they have already obtained from the BIA, FAA and Wien Consolidated Airlines.

Tom Eccles of the AFN Economic Development program and ASNA president Joe Upicksoun were in Juneau January 11 to talk with state officials in the Governor's office.

Among the state officials at the meeting was Governor's assistant Eben Hopson and Byron Mallott, new head of the Local Affairs Agency. Eccles is promoting funds for the Barrow air terminal.

The air terminal would be owned by the city of Barrow and serve as office space for the BIA, Wien Airlines, the FAA and hopefully, the state government. A commitment from the state to lease office space would enable the facility to approach any large institution for financial backing.

"We hoped for an Indian Development Grant," Eccles said. "However, we are now exploring the other possibilities."

Eccles has been working on the project since August 1 and pronounces it highly feasible. The terminal complex, which

would include hotel and office space besides terminal facilities, is needed in Barrow due to the increase in development.

"The Northwest Economic Board (Barrow, Kotzebue, etc.) has designated Barrow as their number one air facility," Eccles said.

"We are working very closely with Wien Airlines. The terminal would be built on their property near the airstrip."

The developers hope to have financing and requirement "package" complete by early May or late summer. They can then get estimates from a contractor,

and will approach Ghemm Company in Fairbanks for an estimate on costs.

Ghemm has done a great deal of work in the Arctic and employs almost 100 per cent Barrow and Wainwright help on such projects, according to Eccles.

"The terminal would create at least 40 to 45 new jobs in Barrow," Eccles explained. "ASNA has given its 100 per cent endorsement to the project. They stated that if funds are difficult to secure they will put up a portion of their land claims settlement for collateral."

## Pipeline Route Idea...

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the land claims.

"The position of ASNA is that land claims has a paramount priority," said ASNA President Joe Upicksoun. "Nothing else moves till we get the land claims settled."

The ASNA board is trying to get the land claims settled, allowing their area to proceed with many development projects which are now in the works.

Wright will be in Seattle this week conferring with ASNA attorneys and the officials of Alyeska Pipeline, Inc. He expects further discussion of his plan at the next AFN board meeting,

scheduled for January 22.

"I received absolute support from the ASNA," said Wright.

He first proposed his idea, he said, at the AFN's December board meeting in Anchorage and reintroduced it at a meeting between them and Governor William A. Egan in Juneau last month.

According to the AFN President, a unified request from the native groups, the State of Alaska and Alyeska would lead the Secretary of the Interior to grant such a trust—an administrative order which could be accomplished within 60 days.

## Engineer for Bethel

Senator Ted Stevens announced that he had given his strong endorsement to the proposal that a project engineer of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare be assigned to Bethel for the coming construction season.

Stevens said, "There will be major federal construction projects underway during that time. On-the-job coordination is es-

sential.

"This engineer would work with Bethel's city administration in seeing that the projects move along well, and in harmony with each other—a very important task."

"I feel most strongly that the proposal should be approved, and I am hopeful that it will be."

## ASNA Eyes Borough...

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they ask and shall be large enough and stable enough to warrant and support the operation of organized borough government.

These requirements for boundaries to include all areas "necessary for full development of integrated local government" a stable and sufficient economic base and good transportation and communication.

According to Robert J. Dupere of Dupere and Associates, Inc., Barrow and the Arctic Slope communities above the Brooks Range (the proposal includes almost all Alaskan land above the Brooks Range) are in a strong financial position for incorporation into a first class borough.

"We've already prepared petition forms," says Mr. Dupere. "We need 25 per cent of the voters in the last general election to sign the request for organization."

The petition will then go to the Local Affairs Agency which will examine the qualifications of the proposed borough and report to the Local Boundary Commission.

The Local Boundary Commission must hold at least one hearing in the area and will determine if the petition is to be accepted. If it is, the voters of the area will vote on incorporation.

Barrow, which is presently a fourth class city, would be the major population center of the proposed borough, which includes nearly all state land north of 68 degrees latitude.

Other communities which would be included are Kaktovik, Pt. Hope, Wainwright and Anaktuvuk Pass.

The idea for formation of a first class borough on the North Slope was first proposed several years ago when Eben Hopson was executive director of the ASNA.

"We had some preliminary discussion with the Miller administration's rural affairs of-

fice," explained Joe Upicksoun. John Beard of that office went to Barrow in 1969 to explain the advantages and disadvantages of various types of incorporation. "This left us some resources to think about."

"When Eben Hopson left to work for AFN last April the thing was dormant till Charlie Edwardsen, Jr. came to ASNA as director," Upicksoun said. Hopson is now Governor Egan's special assistant.

"We have a beautiful tax base," Upicksoun maintains, a claim which is echoed by the financial expert (Dupere) ASNA hired. "Our people maintain that within the Arctic Slope region we have our culture and that's the only culture that can live and survive on the Arctic Slope."

Although Barrow, with its 2,000 people, the largest community on the Slope, will give up some rural development money in incorporation, it will gain control over the revenues of the North Slope oil fields.

One requirement for success of the move is that the Prudhoe Bay oil lease area be included in the Boundary Commission's decision. It would provide assured revenue to support a school system and the planning and development responsibilities required of a first class borough.

"It could be accomplished within six months," says Dupere, a consultant who has worked for many Alaskan cities and boroughs. "Without the oil revenues," he explained, "incorporation would be marginal. With the new emphasis on self determination, however, even poorer communities will take a look at it."

"With home rule," Dupere added, "the new borough would have a great deal of latitude in planning means to adapt to their peculiar conditions and environment."

## Hickel Fields Queries...

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"I know the difficulty I had in getting support from the administration for the last proposal—8 to 12 million acres and 500 million dollars. I don't think that 60 million acres fits into that ball park. I would hope we would settle Native Land Claims as soon as possible. In order to do that we'd have to have something that's attainable."

Hickel told the press he thought it was a moral issue for the federal government to settle Native Land Claims justly.

"I can really see the Native problem here," he said. "Some villages may have been here for hundreds of years and don't know if they own the land beneath their dwellings."

"When we (all Alaskan interests) can agree on what we think is acceptable," Hickel said, "we can go into Congress united and get a settlement."

About himself, the former Alaskan Governor reanswered questions on why President Nixon

so abruptly dismissed him as Secretary of the Interior on the day before Thanksgiving last year. The reason, according to Nixon's press conference was a "lack of mutual confidence."

"I think my difficulty with the President possibly might have been that there were those close to the President that didn't to the President that didn't want me to get too close to him," he told the press.

The real question, he said, was why the President ever asked him to be Secretary of the Interior in the first place.

Hickel would not name any specific political ambitions, but will be following a speaking schedule for the next few months which will maintain him in the public eye.

He will appear on the David Frost show, an NBC-TV special on the Everglades and other TV programs, as well as at numerous personal speaking appearances.