

Udall to introduce new bill

Congressmen Morris Udall and John Seiberling intend to place a substitute land bill into the Congressional Record on April 23.

Rough copies of the bill were given to the Secretary of the Interior, Department of Agriculture and the Alaska Coalition.

The Alaska Federation of Natives obtained a copy and held a meeting on April 16 to discuss the possible ramifications of the new bill.

The new bill contains provisions for a land bank, subsistence and the ANSCA amendments. Unlike the other bills, it lists the Native land exchanges and the sub-

merged lands amendments in the table of contents; but under those page headings the paper is blank.

The Udall bill is stronger in its subsistence language than the other bills up for consideration. However, it will be up to the Rules Committee to decide whether it will be considered.

● Town forum

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who will direct the questions to the guests.

The Alaska Native Foundation is assisting in the production of Town Forum, which is a regular monthly production of KUAC-TV and KUAC-FM in Fairbanks. The program is also being offered to the Alaska Public Radio Network. Check listings of your local public broadcasting station for air time in your community.

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ST. MARY'S RECEIVES LAND — St. Mary's Native Corporation President Moses Paukan and corporation members William Tyson (pointing) and Andrew Paukan review a map portraying the 107,541 acres of surface estate that was conveyed to the corporation by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on March 23. Looking on from the left are Judy Kammins, Chief, ANCSA Division, BLM and Jane Clawson and Doris Diakakis, Supervisory Land Law Examiners, BLM. Conveyance of the subsurface estate to the Calista Corporation took place on the same day.

● Hovercraft

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Bates, director of research and development for DOT. There are only 26 hovercraft in the world available for commercial purposes, he said. While a pair of hovercraft has worked successfully on the MacKenzie River Delta in the Northwest Territories, only one private enterprise in England has made a profit operating hovercraft.

The intent of the project is to see if it's cost-effective," said Bates. "It takes the risk of developing those figures from private enterprise. From every indication, it looks like the use of hovercraft is economically viable."

While hovercraft could deliver bulkier freight to villages, lessening the need for more roads and larger airports, the possible detrimental effects of the system cannot be predicted. The departments of Environmental Conservation and Fish and Game have questioned whether use of the hovercraft will disrupt wilderness ecosystems. Bates hopes a report of the environmental facets of the operation will come out of the project.

The selection of Global Marine by DOT commissioner, Bob Ward, was predicated on a ranking point system. Consideration was given to the type of craft proposed for use, the availability of adequate maintenance and personnel, management experience of the six competing firms, and the amount of support garnered from river communities.

Bates said a public hearing on the proposal will be held in Bethel in mid-May.

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