

Interior Secretary ...

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within 18 months. "Twenty-two thousand jobs," said the Secretary, "will be created in Alaska in connection with the pipeline construction and a gross payroll of \$800 million will be generated."

Morton spoke of another area of concern, "the whole business of Native claims and land withdrawals. I know that for many in Alaska these issues are very difficult. The development of the pipeline and the future economic course of this great state are intertwined with these issues."

He pointed to the role of the newly formed Land Use Planning Commission ordered by the Act, stating that it would lay the groundwork for land use practices "unmatched anywhere in the world."

Morton said the Commission would protect the Alaskan Native people and "their share of a piece of the action."

The Commission has been under attack for appointing only one Native member, all that was legally required under the Act.

Questioned as to why more than the stipulated one Native member had not been chosen Morton said, "What I needed was objectivity."

Speaking at the first meeting of the Land Use Planning Commission in Anchorage, August 1, Cecil Barnes of the Chugach region expressed concern to Sec. Morton about plans to sign over 802 acres of land near Valdez.

The Anchorage Daily Times reported this land was to be signed over to the state of Alaska to be put up for competitive bid. It was considered to be a strategic location for the terminal for the trans-Alaska pipeline system and could presumably be bought by the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company at a cost of perhaps millions of dollars.

"The land in question," said Barnes, "has been set aside for potential selection by the village to Tatitlek, part of the Chugach Native Corporation."

Barnes reminded the Commission of a remark made by Harry Carter, its only Native member, that the commission's "very existence was due to the Alaska NATIVE Land Claims Settlement Act."

Expressing concern for the signing over of "no conflict" lands, Barnes warned that the "no conflict" concept was "drawn from lines on a map; a map which was very hastily drawn in order to meet a very tight time requirement. The Bureau of Land Management," he said, "will readily admit that

there were drafting errors in the plotting of the complex 'set aside' system."

"Obviously, there are deficiencies and conflicts that must be considered," said Barnes, "and there are conflicts that do not show on a piece of paper drawn up by somebody in Washington."

Barnes requested that Secretary Morton see that no further lands be released without consulting the leaders of nearby regions and then only if the land to be released in no way could be considered as a makeup for the protested "in lieu" selections.

The intertwining Morton spoke of between Native land interests and the pipeline are indisputably present and "objectivity" may be a hard quality to come by in Alaska.

Gene Guess, candidate for the U.S. Senate, responded to Morton's signing over of a quarter million acres of Alaska land to the state during his visit as "the most cynical instance of political profiteering I have seen."

"Morton himself," said Guess, "admitted in one breath that the land signed over was never involved in the present land freeze issues, and in the next breath characterized the action as a thaw in the land freeze."

"I think it is obvious that Morton is deliberately confusing the issue in hope of soothing the many points of abrasion between Alaska and the Interior Department."

"Morton himself urges us to avoid partisan activities in our approach to the land issue, yet the whole purpose of his visit suggests political motives."

The lands signed over, said Guess, were selected prior to Sec. Udall's 1969 land freeze, and were subject to no conflicting claims. They represent "less than one-third of one percent of the land Alaska has filed on. To say that this minor action, unrelated to the main federal-state land issue, symbolizes a thaw in the land freeze is like striking a match in December at Point Barrow and saying it symbolizes a spring thaw."

"This was nothing more than an election year ploy by Nixon's administration to win votes from outside interests which do not want the freeze resolved in favor of Alaskans."

As he spoke in Fairbanks, a large shadow of the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C. B. Morton, was projected on the wall. It seemed to presage a future shadow falling over the difficult choices ahead.

Larry Peterson Poses His Platform

Larry Petersen, an Athabascan Indian from Ft. Yukon, has filed for the Alaska House of Representatives on the Democratic ticket, Sixteenth District.

Petersen attended high school at Mt. Edgecumbe, enrolled in the University of Alaska, later attended Sheldon Jackson, and eventually completed an electronics training course in California, working on the White Alice System.

He has twice served as vice-president of Tanana Chiefs, is the president of DNH Development Corp., appointed by the Governor to the Health and Welfare advisory board, past-president of Fort Yukon Native Association and member of the city council.

Petersen said he feels this is "a crucial period in the development of the state - at a time that calls for serious in-depth thinking as to what direction we want to take in the future."

"Much attention is focused on Alaska these days due to the oil sale, Native Land Claims Settlement, and the 800 mile pipeline."

He objects, not to the pipeline per se, but to the fact "that we (Natives) are not being trained or hired for available jobs in the North Slope area or in the construction of roads leading to this area."

"The oil boom," said Petersen, "should profit all Alaskans", native and non-native alike. He urged local hire, not only in the oil industry but in the school system.

"Our housing," he added, "is substandard, sanitation facilities are inadequate and harmful. Our rivers and lakes are being polluted. Adequate medical facilities are not available."

"Our welfare system is one of the three lowest in the states, yet our prices are the highest. We do not have enough nursing homes, our elderly people often go without proper medical attention or are sent hundreds of miles to a nursing home. Here they suffer loneliness and estrangement from their families."

He spoke of the need for juvenile facilities both for delinquent children and those with special problems, for alcoholism programs and research, for legal services, better highways, vocational training centers, better transportation and communication.

In conclusion, Petersen said, "Yes, Alaska has oil, we have thousands of acres of resources,

TT \$8000 ...

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The Billings session was intended to review requests from Native people in Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona, but only representatives from three of those states attended.

The Billings Gazette headlined the story, "Money to pay but no Indians." The Church, which spent about \$3.2 million on self-development projects in 1971, budgeted about \$8 million for similar work this year.

Mistrust on the part of tribes for new programs that have "petered out" in the past was cited by Leigh P. Hubbard, Sr., Navajo representative; as reason for the poor attendance.

Hubbard said the church would be "well-advised to start a campaign to sell Indian people on their own self-development."

The Alaskan Native representative felt certain his proposals, totaling \$31,000 would be approved in the near future and he gave full credit to the work of the National United Presbyterian Church and their program for self-development projects.

Health Services For Alaska

Program to bring health services to Alaska will be continued under the terms of a grant by the Office of Economic Opportunity Senator Ted Stevens announced.

The Alaska Republican said the \$2,289,257 one year grant will go to the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., of Anchorage the program was first funded by OEO in May of 1969.

This project working in close coordination with the Alaska Native Health Service will continue to develop and operate an extensive medical assistant training program for Village Health Aides.

Most of the program is concentrated in the poor rural areas of Western Alaska.

Health programs are carried on in the Yukon-Kuskokwim (Bethel), Norton Sound (Nome), Tanana Chiefs Conference (Fairbanks) and Kotzebue areas.

The program cooperates with the Alaska Native Health Service, the Alaska Medical Association, Alaska Department of Health and Welfare, the Regional Medical Program, Comprehensive Health Planning Program, the Alaska Rural Community Action Agency and the Department of Defense.



LARRY PETERSEN
—Aurora Borealis Studio

plentiful fish, game, and timber but we are still poor and still undeveloped."

"We must have more local planning and more centralized organization. I am deeply concerned about these problems facing all Alaskans. I do not believe we all have different goals but merely different approaches to this goal."

"It is my belief that we can work together and the result will be just for all concerned."

AFN Reorganization ...

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responsibility on land claims costs.

Present indications are that the AFN will be reconstructed to deal solely with matters pertaining to all 12 regions jointly.

Criticism erupted recently over the AFN's housing program, which did not have the total support of all regions, several of which plan to operate their own housing programs without AFN help.

Fred Notti, president of the Calista Corp., demanded that the board go on record with a statement that the AFN housing authority be an entirely separate entity from the central organization.

Under the terms of the Land Claims Settlement Act the state of Alaska was divided into twelve Native regions for administering the act. Each region was instructed to form profit-making corporations. Mines and lands from the settlement go directly to these separate legal entities and are not administered through the central organization of the AFN.

Since final settlement of the act more and more autonomously, setting up separate offices, programs, service organizations, etc. and hiring their own lawyers and consultants.

President Don Wright and executive director Harry Carter of the AFN, mapped out plans for sharing of leadership skills and resources.

The AFN Housing Program was one of the first major attempts to coordinate a large

undertaking on behalf of all the regions.

AFN's plans, however, met with disinterest and non-participation by several key regions, and the question of authority to act for the whole addressed itself to the AFN leadership.

The total absence of representatives from either the Tlingit-Aida Central Council or the Arctic Slope Native Association, two of the most powerful Native regions in Alaska, at what was to have been a significant and definitive meeting was a further indication of the weakening power of the central body.

At Friday and Saturday's sessions in Anchorage, it was decided that each of the twelve regions would send a corporate representative to the Sept. 12 meeting. The AFN bi-annual convention is scheduled for Oct. 18.

Lack of support from the individual regions may hurt not only AFN's housing program but also current plans for the utilization of the deactivated Air Force base, Wildwood.

John Sackett of Doyon, Ltd., requested a detailed report on AFN's plans for Wildwood. It has been proposed that the property be turned over to the Kenai Native Association within the Cook Inlet Region, with the AFN acting in an advisory capacity.

Plans to use Wildwood as a boarding facility for Native students must be implemented before the advent of the fall school term.



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