

Post Offices In Villages to Remain Open

Senator Ernest Gruening was notified today in Anchorage by Postmaster General W. Marvin Watson that post offices at Anvik, Arctic Village, Bettles Field, Chatanika and Kalskag Kalskag will remain open.

This revokes an order announced last week that these post offices would be closed, among many others in the nation, because of economy orders and a manpower ceiling in the Post Office Department.

The postmaster general said he was reversing the previous orders following Congressional action authorizing department personnel to continue at existing levels without any reduction

Service Centers

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Don Wright.

The program of building sanitary service centers will start next year.

"The executive director of the President's commission, Robert Carmack, was very concerned about the suggested program," Wright said.

Wright obtained the commitment from the commission after a series of meetings involving a special assistant to the Vice President, Neal Peterson, Robert Carmack, and John Cosgrove, director of the Office of Regional Development Planning.

Don Wright was instructed to return to Alaska and prepare a recommendation with the aid of the Alaska Federation of Natives, complete with cost estimates.

The Commission on American Indian Opportunity is composed of the heads of the executive branches of the government, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Bertram Harding, and six Indian leaders pick from throughout the country. One of these is Rep. Willie Hensley of Kotzebue.

A special fund has been set aside for the projects that amounts to \$3 million.

Tobacco . . .

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thriving of business on the tobacco consumer producers. To put a curbs on tobacco sales, scientists and doctors are utilized to avert the money spent. The reason—economy.

Money is needed elsewhere—housing, clothes, food, education, defense, the basic needs of the public; these should come first before luxury items such as tobacco.

Indeed, cigarettes are more common today than ever before. So common it is a household word. Tobacco is not necessary item to maintain or preserve the physical body and its function. Take it away and what do you have—a body pure and free.

Tobacco won't be missed as we would think so or believe. Tobacco affects the psychological aspects of life. From there, the nerves take over. Recent reports and studies show it may not be tar and nicotine but the element of gas passed to the bloodstream that is a hazard.

Surely, you must admit a person who stops smoking can save money and utilize it where it's needed most—even to charity. Think of the money saved and accrued; and if you're a "ban the bomb" enthusiast—practice what you preach, theoretically; and save mankind from its doom and advocate non-smoking.

Gala Olympics . . .

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in the three-day Olympics. The events include Eskimo hi-kick, knuckle hop, Indian-stick pull, Eskimo and Indian dance contests, Eskimo seal skinning contests, nalukatuq (blanket toss), native queen contest, and many other events.

Olympics Queen Leora Kenick of Nome, will reign over the festivities for the first two days when on Saturday, she will crown her successor, the Eskimo Olympics Queen of 1968.

There are strong indications that the newly elected queen will also take part in next year's Miss (Indian) America Pageant of the All American Indian Days at Sheridan, Wyoming.

Contestants from Fort Smith, Inuvik, N.W.T., are also attending this year. Time-Life and National Geographic photographers are on hand to take pictures of the colorful native performers.

Roy Disney, son of the late and famous Walt Disney is on hand to see the exciting program. Gov. Tim Babcock of

Muschenheim

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Indian Health, U. S. Public Health Service, in accordance with Section 201, Public Law 90-364.

Public Law 90-364 requires that federal agencies reduce their personnel to the level of operations of June, 1966.

Muschenheim said that at that time, the Division of Indian Health employed 5,370. He said that the application of the PL 90-364 would mean a reduction of approximately 20 per cent in DIH employees.

"Such reductions," Muschenheim declared, "endanger the health and safety of hundreds of thousands of American Indians. They threaten to impede basic programs in hospital care, field health services, public health nursing, prenatal clinics, trachoma controls, and environmental mental health at a time when these programs are desperately needed."

Muschenheim cited President Johnson's message to Congress on the Indian situation in which he said in part:

"The health level of the American Indian is the lowest of any major population group in the United States... The infant mortality rate among Indians is 34.5 per 1,000 births—12 points above the national average... The incidence of tuberculosis among Indians and Alaska natives is about five times the national average..."

"More than half of the Indians obtain water from contaminated or potentially dangerous sources, and use waste disposal facilities that are grossly inadequate... Viral infections, pneumonia, and malnutrition—all of which contribute to chronic ill health and mental retardation—are common among Indian children."

Muschenheim stated that programs designed specifically to attack these problems, to lengthen the Indian's life span from the present 44 years to the average American's 65, to reduce the misery of Indian adults and children from disease and pain, were being jeopardized.

"Indeed, when the present program is already woefully inadequate, it seems an suspiciously inappropriate time to reduce it even further."

"Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Division of Indian Health be exempted from Section 201, Public Law 90-364, so that, at the very least, the present level of operations can be maintained," Dr. Muschenheim concluded.

Montana will be here and Mayor of Calgary and his party are to be here.

Major politicians are also on hand to meet and view the performers. Mike Gravel yesterday was being escorted by Ralph Perdue in the Olympics area and other politicians were evident.

The annual Eskimo Olympics is a unique spectacle where unusual sights and scenes are viewed by crowds of people.

Special Thanks

The success of the Soul Food Dinner held recently by Reconstitution, Incorporated was due to the fine turnout of people and the co-operation of many people who donated their time and energies as well as encouragement and helpful ideas.

A special thanks is directed to Anna Starr and DeLois Ketzler of Nenana whose contributions and assistance ensured success of the dinner.

Kokhanok Bay To Have Post Office Facility

Senator Ernest Gruening was notified this week by the Post Office Department that a new rural branch will be opened at Kokhanok Bay on Iliamna Lake on August 24.

The branch, which will be operated by Francine Andrew, will provide six hours of postal service each week, Senator Gruening said.

Well Known Legislators Take Issue with Taylor's Gravel Attack

Two well known rural Alaska legislators last week took sharp issue with Warren Taylor, a Fairbanks lawyer, who recently charged that U.S. Senate candidate Mike Gravel had no real interest in native problems and made critical remarks.

Taylor is a supporter of Sen. Ernest Gruening and has previously attacked Gravel. Gravel defeated him in 1964 for the speakership of the State House.

Taking issue with Taylor was State Rep. Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue, and Rep. George Hohman, D-Bethel, both new young legislators elected to the legislature in 1966.

Adding his voice to that of the two rural legislators was State Rep. Mike Bradner, D-Fairbanks, but who is well known in many villages.

The three young Democrats were strong in their criticism of Mr. Taylor and Sen. Gruening for engaging in "mud-slinging," and resorting to "gimmicks" to influence the voters.

"Mr. Taylor's remarks are inaccurate and meaningless," Rep. Hohman said. "The native people have always recognized that Gravel, who is the author of the regional high school plan, and who recently wrote the essay 'Alaska's Native Poor,' is vitally concerned with native problems."

Hohman said in 1966 more than 70 per cent of the people in his district voted for Gravel.

They did not make a mistake Hohman said, "they met Gravel, they talked to him, and they voted for him knowing that he has a genuine interest in their problems."

Representative Hensley said he was unable to see how Taylor could refer to Gravel's recent campaign as an effort "to deprecate" the many accomplishments of Senator Gruening.

Begich: Have Native Advisors In Washington if He Is Elected

Sen. Nick Begich announced in Barrow Tuesday that he will ask the Alaska Federation of Natives to help him select a native advisor to work with him in his Washington office if he is elected to the U. S. House.

Begich said that he wants the AFN to nominate three persons of native blood, each of whom is qualified to advise on matters touching on the native land claims, and on native problems in education, housing, unemployment, health, and in economic development in general.

Begich will select one of the three to advise him in Washington.

Begich was in Barrow for a meeting of statewide candidates called by Eben Hopson, Executive Director of the Arctic Slope Native Association. Hopson said that he called the meeting to discuss "the many problems confronting the people on the North Slope."

No personal invitations were sent to candidates: all notification was through the news media. Begich and Don Wright, another candidate for the U. S. House were the only statewide candidates to respond to the invitation.

The two and Hopson met with about 75 people in the Barrow Community Hall. "A beautiful hall," Begich told the Tundra Times. "I wonder why Gov. Hickel cancelled the \$2500 grant to complete the building that had been promised by the Egan Administration?"

While in Barrow Begich

pledged his full support for the construction of adequate sewer and water systems in Barrow. "If it can be done for the hospital and schools, then it can be done for the village," Begich said. "It's unbelievable that a town of 2,000 people should have no such facilities. And if it can be done for Barrow, it can be done for other large villages as well."

Begich, a schoolteacher and school administrator for the past twelve years, talked about Barrow's schools. "They need kindergartens," he said. "And the high school program is seriously in need of attention. Too many Barrow teenagers are going outside to school, or to other Alaskan schools."

Begich put much of the blame for school conditions on the BIA.

"Two months ago I called for the phasing out of BIA control of Alaskan village schools," he said.

Begich's campaign today took him to Sitka for a fund-raising dinner and the commencement of a six-day campaign swing through Southeastern Alaska. Saturday will find him in Ketchikan, and he'll be in Juneau on Sunday.

Begich told the Tundra Times that he plans to spend the remainder of the week campaigning in the small towns and villages of Southeastern Alaska.

Sen. Begich announced his candidacy for the U. S. House last October. His statewide campaign chairmen are Emil Notti and Frank Peratrovich.

ST. GEORGE . .

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the Pribilofians had been violated.

The people of St. George, about 225 in all, had made charges against the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries that administer the islands, that they were being forced to move off the island by the BCF.

"The fact that the project is going to begin on the airstrip on St. George means that the St. George people will not be moving for some time to come," said Lekanof. "This will also mean that eventually, the people will realize a post office on the island."

Lekanof said that surveyors were on St. George on July 11-15. He said the next group will be engineers and that they will prepare fill-in material for the airstrip this year.

"Word was that it might not be completed this year and that it will be completed next year," said Lekanof.

He said that BCF intends to base a small aircraft on St. Paul Island 40 miles from St. George "for the time being."

"The communities, someday, would like to serve their own by having their own plane and pilots," Lekanof said.

He said there was a young Aleut man in Anchorage who is contemplating to train to fly.

"Those people on St. George have been waiting so long for an airstrip that they are going to work hard to have it completed," he said.

Early this year, Flore Lekanof had said, "St. George is the worst served native community in Alaska."

At the present time, the only contact St. George people have is when a ship calls three times a year and an occasional mail drop by plane.

Being one of the Pribilof Islands, St. George Island people harvest about one fifth of the fur seal industry's annual production.