



AHTNA SUES INTERIOR DEPT.



NORTH SLOPE TRAVEL-STUDY GROUP IN WASHINGTON, D.C. — North Slope Borough high school students meet with U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens on their recent trip to Washington, D.C. Their visit to the Nation's Capital was part of an 80-day cross country trip to twenty cities. The students told their Washington, D.C. student sponsors about living on the North Slope as they saw the capital together. In the bottom row, from left to right are: Alice Hugo, Anaktuvuk Pass; Helen Compton, sponsor; Sarah Kilapsuk, Nulqsut; Vera Ahgook, Anaktuvuk Pass; Laura Rullund, Anaktuvuk Pass; Kerm Kingik, Point Hope. In the top row, from left to right, are: Hattie Morry, Anaktuvuk Pass; Anthony Sims, sponsor; Novella Murray, sponsor; Merriman Smoot, sponsor; Emma Aishanna, Barrow; Melina Vourlekis, sponsor; Harry Panigeo, Barrow; Gretchen Krochmal, sponsor; Willi Hugo, Anaktuvuk Pass; Ronald Bradley, sponsor, and Senator Stevens.

Failure to Consider Bid By Native Firm Causes Rift on Survey of Lands

By DONN LISTON

Alaska Native Foundation

ANCHORAGE — The Ahtna, Inc. Native corporation has filed suit against the Department of Interior for what it believes to be unfair treatment with respect to contract bid considerations for surveying land to be granted to Alaska Natives pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of Dec. 18, 1971.

The Bureau of Land Management, which is charged with the responsibility of surveying Native village lands selected last December in accordance with the claims act, refused an Ahtna subsidiary, Ahtna Construction and Primary Products, the opportunity to bid on cadastral survey contracts for the communities of Cantwell, Chistochina and Copper Center.

No explanation was given in a form letter to Ahtna Construction and Primary Products as to why the opportunity to bid was denied to the only Native contractors to submit a bid proposal.

All of the lands to be granted under the act must be surveyed before they may change hands, according to Irving Zirple, Jr. Chief of Cadastral Surveying for BLM, who added:

"We are the only ones who have

authority to survey lands for the federal government, and we've been beefing up our personnel and procedures in preparation for these surveys, but we won't be able to survey all of them ourselves because there is so much to do — and we really couldn't start the work until after the Native selections are made."

As a technical director for the surveying process, Zirple could not comment on the choice of contractors for the jobs outside of the agency. However, he did explain that the contract negotiations are presently under way for some of the contractors and that this is the first time since 1910 that the U.S. government has contracted for cadastral survey work.

The Ahtna suit is based on section 7(b) of the Indian Self

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BIA Area Dir. Makes Statement On Fairbanks Agency Problems

Statement of Clarence Antioquia, Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Fred Baker, Fairbanks Agency Superintendent regarding problem areas experienced at the Fairbanks Agency. For release April 29, 1975.

"The Bureau of Indian Affairs, in cooperation with the U.S. Civil Service Commission and appropriate Interior Department officials, is currently working to resolve three problem areas which have threatened to disrupt our activities at the Fairbanks Agency.

"These concerns are: (1) the critical housing situation in the Fairbanks area, (2) increased living costs, and (3) internal government problems within the Bureau affecting the relationship between the Area Office and the Fairbanks agency.

"The Area Director and Fairbanks Superintendent have been moving as rapidly as possible to address these problems, keeping in mind at all times that our overall objective is to continue to provide services to Native people.

"We met with representatives of the Civil Service Commission in Seattle and appropriate Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs administrators in Washington.

"We have developed the following responses to the three problem areas: (1) I have

requested that Fairbanks be designated as a location where the Bureau may provide government housing for its employees, (2) the

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SOS Board One Way, Legis. that Way

By DONN LISTON

Alaska Native Foundation

ANCHORAGE — While the Alaska State Operated School system board of directors has taken steps on its own to assure that rural residents will have control of education in their communities, the state legislature appears to be hedging on a pair of

bills that would do the same at the college level.

In a final position paper developed by the ASOSS board April 24, local control of all primary and secondary schools in Alaska was given a new emphasis. The board also expressed a number of reservations concerning currently proposed

legislation which would mandate decentralization of ASOSS within a year.

"The board of directors of ASOSS defines local control as the degree with which local communities assume the responsibility to make decisions regarding their school's

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Oil/Gas Tax 'Totally Opposed'

By JEFF RICHARDSON

"Totally opposed" is the way John Shively of the Alaska Federation of Natives characterized his organizations position on a proposal to tax oil and gas reserves.

The proposal was introduced in the state legislature and was the subject of hearings in Juneau the week of April 14. The bill would levy an annual tax on the full and true value of oil and gas leases under which there are proven reserves. The bill would also tax ownership interests in proven oil and gas reserves in place.

The legislation has drawn criticism from the Alaska Federation of Natives as well as individual Native corporations who fear they will be taxed out of existence before they can develop a sound financial base. Shively said an informal poll of the regional corporations indicated they were all opposed to the

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Russ Musk Ox Despite Suit

By LAEL MORGAN

Alaska Magazine

Despite protest and a law suit

filed by concerned Alaskans, 40 Nunivak Island musk ox were shipped to Russia early this

month as part of a trade agreement instituted by Richard Nixon in 1972.

However, as a result of the suit, the court decided control of the animals lay with the Commissioner of the State Department of Fish and Game (despite the fact the animals are on a federal preserve) and Governor Jay Hammond said he would back the Board of Fish and Game in any direction it gave the Commissioner.

The Commissioner immediately ordered the State Police to defend the herd (which was milling around in Bethel by a waiting Russian transport) while the Board made up its mind whether or not to honor Nixon's commitment.

Reluctantly, the Board gave its consent but only after Attorney General Avrum Gross had assured

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MUSK OX FOR RUSSIA — This is the first musk ox caught on Nunivak Island for shipment to Russia. Forty of the woolly animals were rounded up for the shipment.