

Wounded Knee: Besieged, Tense . . .

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the first time that a group of Indians have seized a facility which was already in the hands of Indians. So it is different from the Trail of the Broken Treaties, it is different from Alcatraz, and others.

The American Indian Movement (AIM) leaders say they seized Wounded Knee because the government failed to negotiate seriously with them on serious matters when they took over the BIA in Washington last November.

Since the return home of the various "caravans" to different parts of the country, one group arrived in this area led by Russell Means who is an Oglala Sioux and this (Pine Ridge Reservation) is an Oglala Sioux reservation.

Since November, they have been in various parts of Nebraska and then in January and February they swung up through 6 or 7 communities in the Black Hills, South Dakota. There were disturbances in various towns. The town of Custer had suffered some damage to the first floor of a court house, and there was the burning of a chamber of commerce building, and the burning of a gas station.

Eight days ago they moved into Wounded Knee. Approximately 240 federal marshalls are here right now, as well as an undetermined amount of FBI agents, and in addition, there are tribal police from surrounding reservations, so the police presence is quite large.

Both sides are heavily armed and once the occupation began,

federal marshalls threw an encirclement around the very small village. The village of Wounded Knee lies in a draw, in a small valley, and the perimeter extends into the uplands on practically all sides of the village. There are no mountains here. It is a kind of rolling plain and the valley dips down maybe 100 feet or so, but they're very soft hills, not sharp, and there's a small Catholic church just to the north. Just behind the church is the mass grave of the people who were killed here in 1890. There were about 300 people killed here at that time it was on a Sunday and it was winter.

Think Young . .

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actual legislative experience in Juneau.

The issue of gun control may have damaged Notti's campaign in the last weeks. A last minute attempt to set the record straight was made by Notti supporters but with only days left before the ballot, the innuendo of doubt on Notti's stand may have taken its toll of voters.

Young showed decisive strength in the urban areas, particularly in Fairbanks and Anchorage, with Notti leading in the bush, and much of the state split down the middle. It was, as most had predicted, a close race with Young drawing slightly better than 50 per cent of the vote.

The mass grave is approximately 50 feet long and about ten feet wide. I was up in the graveyard today and the people, AIM-led, but representing about four different definable groups, have completely cleaned out the graveyard, all the pop bottles, stuff, and trash that you might find there and they've dressed the graves. (There are veterans of the different wars and others who have lived and died in the community buried there also.)

The purpose of the seizure of Wounded Knee was to highlight the mistreatment and injustices suffered by Indian people and was intended as an

effort to further prod the government into genuine response.

The leader of the American Indian Movement takeover of Wounded Knee is a Sioux and the political opponent of the president of the Oglala Sioux tribe, Richard T. Wilson, age 39. Wilson and Means have been at odds over various issues. The Oglala tribe administers the area of Wounded Knee.

The occupation is an intrusion upon tribal sovereignty. With the arrival of AIM here 8 days ago, all constitutional pow-

ers of the tribe were suspended, including that of the president, and in its place came the federal marshalls and the Justice Department, calling the shots on everything. The powers of the local BIA officials, including Superintendent Stanley Lyman have been in abeyance.

Two days ago, the Justice Department in its first meaningful offer to the people who are holding Wounded Knee made a four point proposal and that was this: That they would be permitted to leave between 8 a.m.

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First Native Printing . .

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for a permanent location.

"A quick look at a map of Alaska would quickly show that Fairbanks is the ideal location for such an operation and that distribution to the villages would be efficient and economical," commented president of the fledgling company, Howard Rock.

"The materials can go by train to Nenana and by barge to any village on the Yukon; by truck and ferry to most communities in southeastern Alaska; by truck or train to most Interior or Southeastern Alaska; and when necessary for speed, by plane to remaining villages on the Bering Sea, the Arctic Ocean, and other isolated communities."

Director Lawrence D. Fish of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory said, "The Laboratory is particularly pleased that the Alaska Native people have found the materials appropriate and effective enough to warrant forming their own

publishing company to make them available to all children in the state."

Rock announced that the new Eskimo, Indian, and Aleut Printing Company intends to hire and train Native people to manage and operate the plant.

As the company expands, Rock predicted there will be even greater opportunities for native involvement, utilizing native writers, artists, and other skilled personnel.

"We intend to investigate the needs of other native educational programs, as well as other commercial printing with the emphasis on the needs of the newly developing regional native corporations."

The new company will be distinctly separate from the original publishing company which founded and which will continue to publish the statewide newspaper, the Tundra Times. Both companies will be under the management of Howard Rock.

Pipeline Tax Bill . . .

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Republican Selwyn Carrol, R-Fairbanks, has come out against the bill, stating that he feels "it is against the interests of the Interior."

Hopson explained his opposition to such legislation. "My reasoning behind it is this - first, in 1955 when the Constitution was put together the borough concept of government was inserted. There are several boroughs now operating as local units of government, according to the Constitution.

"First, we advocate local government, that if they're able to operate from their own taxes, it permits implementation of a borough so that it CAN operate. All right, then we turn right around with this legislation and say - Look, you guys, you gave taxing authority but we will let you tax only 20 per cent of the property within your borough."

"I think that's against the concept of government as indicated in the Alaska Constitution. If we're going to enhance creation of boroughs, we ought to let the cards fall where they may as far as their tax base is concerned and let them tax it."

Hopson also pointed out that under present Alaska statutes, local government can levy up to 30 mills. "Of course," he added, "I don't think any borough has levied that much yet but the vehicle is there for those that have problems with their tax base to levy all the way up to 30 mills."

"If you don't permit them (local governments) to tax the industry in this particular instance, you put that much of the burden on the homeowner."

"My thoughts on this," he concluded, "is really based on the basic law that the whole governmental system operates

on in Alaska. First, when you authorize local government and then, take the tax base away from them. I think that's actually departing from the intent of the Constitution."

Senator John Sackett also said he had not had time to examine the bill in full, but did comment on the effect that repeal of the right-of-way leasing law would have on the wellhead price of oil.

"One of the reasons for having the right-of-way legislation passed initially," said Sackett "was to guarantee that the wellhead price would be kept at a reasonable level, so that we could collect our severance taxes on the oil and this was a method of regulating them."

"My initial reaction," he added, "is that the right-of-way leasing repeal at this present time would have no specific guarantee that the wellhead price would be at an equitable level."

Sackett predicted the bill, like most, will undergo revisions in committee and that hearings would be held when it came into the Senate Resources Committee where he is chairman.

Rep. Frank Ferguson, the House's lone independent said, "I believe it was the intent of the founders of the boroughs in our Constitution, the people that set up the borough system, that we had too many cities, towns, villages in the state and they felt that the borough system gets government away from the state to where it can do more good. The borough system is ideal."

Ferguson commented that a borough must be able to take care of its own needs "or you've just created another problem. I'm opposed to the state taking the tax."

Chancy Croft, who authored much of last year's oil package legislation, pointed out that revisions of the pipeline legislation could slow down litigation now pending in the courts against the current provisions. "I don't think it's wise to repeal that statute," said Croft. "I don't think it's going to do anything as far as stopping the litigation, so we're not going to gain anything in terms of speeding up the pipeline."

"Secondly," he added, "I think that rental protects the state because it does all the state legally can do to ensure that there's a low tariff on the line." Croft felt that a low tariff on the line meant there would be more development and more future exploration which would benefit the state overall.

Through the provisions of the current right-of-way leasing act, oil or gas is made available to communities along the route at a reasonable rate.

Under the proposed bill HB 245, Croft predicted that people along the route may have to pay a much higher price to get their oil transported, which means companies are going to be less likely to explore or develop and when they're purchasing oil from the line or gas, they'll have to pay a higher price."

"In addition, those communities along the line have had their tax base, if not removed, seriously jeopardized."

"It's really ironic," Croft concluded, "the state is talking about the tremendous impact the pipeline is going to have along its route to local communities - the influx of workers, the demand for schools, for social services and all that. At the same time that we're talking about aid for those municipalities, we pass a bill taking away their taxes."

Tundra Times

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc.

Box 1257, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707 Phone 452-2244

March 7, 1973

Dear Stockholder:

The annual stockholders' meeting of the Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. will be held in the Yukon Room of Travelers Inn (813 Noble St., Fairbanks) at 6:30 p.m. on March 23, 1973.

Please find below a proxy form. This form should be completed and returned whether or not you plan to attend the meeting. It should be sent to Tundra Times, Box 1287, Fairbanks. Your proxy will be null and void in the event you attend the meeting.

Yours very truly,

Howard Rock, President
ESKIMO, INDIAN, ALEUT
PUBLISHING CO., INC.

PROXY

Date

I hereby name _____ as my proxy to the annual stockholders' meeting of the Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. to be held in the Yukon Room of Travelers Inn on March 23, 1973 at 6:30 p.m.

(Signed)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Howard Rock, president; Thomas Richards, vice president; Jimmy Bedford, comptroller; Daphne Gustafson, secretary; Mary Jane Fate, assistant treasurer; and Laura Bergt, corresponding secretary.

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