



LEGISLATIVE ATTITUDES HIT

Paralegal Program Set

JUNEAU — A statewide program to recruit, train and employ 10 Native paralegal aides to help meet mounting legal problems in the bush has been approved by the board of the Alaska Legal Services Corp.

The move came Sunday, backed by a program proposal charging that the lack of lawyers and inadequate delivery of justice to bush Alaska critically impairs the lives of 40,000 Eskimos and Indians.

Funds are now being sought to finance what is expected to be a \$250,000 per year program initially placing paralegal aides in Hoonah, Hydraburg, Unalakleet, Unalakleet, Kodiak, Barrow, Kotzebue, Ft. Yukon, Galena and Copper Center.

Training of the aides is to be conducted in the villages, with short intensive training sessions in urban locations — Anchorage and Fairbanks. At first, paralegals would act mainly as "trouble spotters" to refer people with legal problems to places where they can get help, such as Alaska Legal Services.

As their training progresses, however, they will also be called on to represent clients in magistrates courts, administrative hearings and village council meetings.

Their total training program will require three years, at the conclusion of which salaries for the aides will be provided by the state legislature and local governments, in-kind services are to be supplied by Alaska Legal Services in the form of circuit-riding supervising attorneys, their travel and training of aides.

Executive Director Frank Flavin says the Alaska Legal Services Corp. case work last year affected some 25,000 people in Alaska beneficially and notes that the legal services board is giving increased emphasis to its bush caseload.

Also underway are tentative plans for the second bush justice conference, in Fairbanks in mid-May.

Funds for the conference are now being sought and Legal Services is seeking suggestions on the conference agenda and participants. Among other things, the conference is to consider the impact of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and trans-Alaska pipeline construction on present legal services.

On another matter, several board members of the Legal Services Corporation are urging a letter-writing campaign to U.S. Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, to support legislation before Congress to establish the Legal Services Corp. as a separate entity on the national level.

Since 1966, Legal Services programs have been funded through the Office of Economic

(Continued on page 6)



SELAWIK SECRETARY—Myrna Kagoona, Selawik city secretary takes incoming calls on Selawik's only phone in the court building as one of her jobs.

Selawik Votes to Become A First Class City

By DARLENE SKIN

Selawik, Alaska had an election for first class city on Saturday, Feb. 9, 1974 in the courthouse. The total who voted to become a first class city was 62 and there were 36 who voted no.

This was the largest voter turn-out in the history of Selawik elections according to Selawik mayor, Joe Ballot. The election papers have been sent to Juneau for verification by the Department of Local Affairs.

Other council members, who will continue in office until the next city election are Roger Clark, Virgil Clark, Daniel Fos-

ter, Bert Greist, Bert Jones, and Allen Ticket.

School board president Jonas Ramoth is happy about the election because he believes Selawik will have more money under the foundation formula and be able to do more for its students.

The people in Selawik will be able to say how the money should be spent. A lot of money gets lost between the legislature and rural schools the way things are now.

Selawik will receive its fair share the same as other independent school districts now.

(Continued on page 6)

FNA Potlatch on March 16

The Fairbanks Native Association Potlatch, which annually draws visitors from all over Alaska, will be held March 16 at Lathrop High School.

An Indian tradition which in the past celebrated the memory

of someone who died, the potlatch is today a pure social occasion featuring food, games and dancing.

Anyone wishing to donate or to aid in preparing food for the celebration can contact Steve Matthew, potlatch chairman, at 452-1648.

Food will be served beginning at 6 p.m. with the traditional menu of muktuk, moose, caribou, salmon, beaver, rabbit and Indian and Eskimo ice cream. Seal oil is expected to be brought from Barrow.

Indian and Eskimo dancers will entertain at 7:30 p.m. Other events are yet to be planned.

UA Language Workshop Moving

By MARILYN RICHARDS

The University of Alaska's Eskimo Language Workshop at the Fairbanks campus is planning a move by June 1 to the Kusko-kwim Community College at Bethel.

The Eskimo Language Workshop, in existence since 1969, was the outgrowth of Yupik classes developed by Irene Reed, Dr. Michael Krauss and students through the university's Departments of Linguistics and foreign languages.

Funded jointly by contracts with the BIA and Alaska State-Operated School System, the workshop has had an annual budget in excess of \$200,000.

The Center for Northern Educational Research, directed by Dr. Frank Darnell, has operated

(continued on page 6)

Alaska Bush Problems Not Getting Attention Claims Chuck Degnan

By MARGIE BAUMAN
Juneau Correspondent

JUNEAU — State Rep. Chuck Degnan, D-Unalakleet, charges that unless the leadership of the Alaska House and Senate undergo a change of attitude rural committees will get nothing significant out of the legislature this year.

In a statement issued from his legislation office

Thursday, (Feb. 28) Degnan voiced criticism of colleagues whom he feels are unsympathetic to the problems of rural Alaska.

"I feel generally that this legislature is unique only in the sense of its seeming appetite for obscurity and rhetoric and what is an apparent desire to run out the clock in the legislature, leaving many pressing issues behind without any legislative action," Degnan said. "It seems that the main goal of the House leadership is to adjourn in 75 to 90 days."

"In my opinion, the leadership of the House and Senate reflects a subconscious anti-rural attitude, with the general feeling that Alaska ends at the city limits of Fairbanks and Anchorage," he said.

The Unalakleet Democrat said that unfortunately for rural communities, little interim legislative committee work was oriented toward their needs.

"The monetary committee had not one rural member and it considered only the problems of bankers," he said.

"This is strange at a time when Native corporations will be able to draw on millions of dollars; at a time when a unique Native bank has been proposed, and at a time when one considers the people of the rural areas as the most pressed consumers in the state for services."

"Instead, that committee, out of its vest pocket, simply germinated a bill to give limited service and draw out Native corporation deposits because of their "in" position in a community, he said.

"At this pace and with the priorities set, I do not believe that the majority of the rural communities throughout Alaska will get anything significant out of this legislature unless the leadership has a change of mind," Degnan said.

His comments came in the aftermath of a hearing earlier in the week in which the House Finance discussed House Bill 157. The measure, originally sponsored by Degnan and now also in a committee substitute

(Continued on page 6)

Kissinger Requested To Call Fish Meeting

JUNEAU — Bristol Bay Area Development Corp. has called for an International Fisheries Conference at King Salmon April 15 to develop a program insuring rehabilitation of red salmon resources in the Bristol Bay area.

In a letter to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the development corporation urged the State Department to call such a conference, warning that if the

federal government would not organize it, leaders of the development corporation would do it themselves.

The letter was signed by Nels Anderson, chairman of the Bristol Bay International Marine Fisheries Conference Task Force.

Anderson, who serves as executive director of the Bristol Bay Native Corp., was elected last week to chair the board of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc.

Anderson noted in his letter to Kissinger the published 1974 red salmon forecast of five million fish. The forecast, the lowest ever published, reflect the depressed status of stocks, not only in 1974, but for 1975 through 1978, he wrote.

The letter, released to Tundra Times at Juneau by Nick "Jake" Gregory, a board member came in the aftermath of testimony from Gregory before the House Resources Commit-

(Continued on page 6)

1974 AFN Chairman Elected

JUNEAU — Nels Anderson, executive director of the Bristol Bay Native Corp., Dillingham, is the new chairman of the board of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc.

His election came Thursday during a board meeting of the statewide Native corporation in Juneau.

Anderson, a long-time proponent of the land claims movement and leader in the Bristol

Bay Native Association, succeeds John C. Sackett, president of Doyon, Limited, in the chairman's post.

Jack Wick, president of Koniag, Inc. Kodiak, was elected vice chairman and Andy Johnson, president of Cook Inlet Region Inc., Anchorage, was elected secretary on a unanimous ballot. Herb Smelcer of Ahtna, Inc. Copper Center, is the new treasurer.