

## Land Use: The Mob Moves in

The Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission hearings held in Anchorage recently might be compared to a small-time poker game suddenly overrun by a big-time organized crime syndicate.

Everybody placed their bets in the game Wednesday, when the old familiar crowd showed up to make remarks aimed at the dealer (Joe Josephson, co-chairman of the planning commission) and at the house of commissioner's, before leaving with intentions of returning whenever the payoff was due. Native players John Shively and Roger Lang even left the city thinking the outcome was obvious.

The conservationist players' bid for public access to private lands and room to chase butterflies. Then Native representatives ordered the commission to quit messing around with the cards and start dealing from the top of the deck before they decided to go somewhere else to play. Various other players then suggested everything from taking Native chips and passing them out for other players to extending the game time so they could bring their buddies. It was a familiar Alaskan poker game among statewide adversaries — before the big boys showed up.

Jules Tileston represented the Bureau of Land Management gangster's pitch to the Commission Thursday. He said from now on the local easement game would be run differently, with big time transportation and utility corridor jokers thrown in for kicks. It now appears that this new poker game may have the biggest stakes yet of the Alaska Statehood-Section 17(d) (2) Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act grab-it-while-you-can bazaar.

The first part of the bazaar made the state an arm of the crime syndicate, the second part is a hitch in what Alaska Natives thought would make them yet another arm of that same organization. Now both arms are finding out they've been used only as a means to an end and their little poker games are being shoved ass-side for the mob's interests in Washington D.C. as well as the oil and mineral interests behind them.

The newly appointed Native representative to the planning commission, John Schaeffer, was quick to realize the deck was stacked after BLM presented its Multimodel Transportation and Utility Corridor Systems bid. He noted that federal application of the study was already occurring in his part of the state.

Based on an assumption that all Alaska natural resources of special interest to the mob will automatically be extracted as soon as possible, the BLM proposal should come as a great surprise to Alaskans. The mob has a long history of exploiting raw materials from under-developed, third-world countries, of creating markets for its own best interests, and of securing a cheap labor force (such as the one which will come after the rural Native population is uprooted by development interests). That's just the way big-time criminals operate.

So now the game is joined by the previously behind-the-scenes kibitzers. Alaska Natives may someday own some land through their village and regional corporations, which will in turn be at the mercy of those who use the corridors around and through all Alaska land; whether it's highway users, various construction workers, pipeline maintainers, tourists or whoever.

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The next hand of the new poker game is scheduled to be dealt whenever the BLM representatives are allowed to hold public hearings "locating a statewide multimodel transportation and utility corridor system" as they have proposed to do in their report. Such a game would be yet another trick for them because the question never has been how, when or where to put corridors, at all. The real question is: Are corridors all over the state necessary? But just try to get the mob to understand that.

— DONN LISTON