

Baha'i Native Council Conference Attended by 60 Natives

The Baha'i Native Council was attended by sixty Natives from Alaska, the Canadian Yukon and British Columbia, California, and New Mexico.

Purpose of this first Council, to be an annual event, was to enable the Native Baha'is to come together in fellowship and to present the great challenge, given to them in the Teachings of their Faith, for consultation and action.

Out of the Council's deliberations came the "Friendship Team" and, out of the proposed budget for their trip, one half was raised by the Native Baha'is the remainder was provided by the National Baha'i Assembly of Canada.

Under the joint sponsorship of the National Spiritual Assemblies of the Baha'is of Alaska and Canada the Baha'i Native Friendship Team travelled to eleven remote Indian villages along the British Columbia coast of Canada.

The group was flown to the villages by plane, piloted by one of the group members.

The performers of the Friendship Team — three Tlingits, one Tsimshians, two Eskimos and



BAHA'I NATIVE FRIENDSHIP TEAM

one Polynesian — demonstrated with dances, songs, and talks, their belief that the culture of the native peoples throughout the world form an indispensable part of the Baha'i way of life.

In several of the villages in which the team performed, appreciation was shown by the residents, who staged their own

dances in return.

Out of future Baha'i Native Councils, under the continuing sponsorship of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Alaska, will come more teaching projects of this kind into other new areas.

The next Council is planned for November at Haines.

Arts and Crafts—

State Centers for Native Arts

WASHINGTON — Senator Mike Gravel (Democrat-Alaska) has joined a bipartisan effort to establish State centers for American arts and handicrafts.

The Senate bill authorizes \$100,000 a year for the next three years to set up and maintain workshops in Alaska and other eligible states. Total funding would amount to \$5.3 million.

"We are the proud possessors of flourishing artistic communities in many of our Alaskan cities and towns," Senator Gravel said. "It's especially important to preserve our heritage and to encourage the continued devel-

opment of our arts and handicrafts." He singled out Alaska Native skills as a case in point.

"The Native crafts and folklore are rare and beautiful skills," he commented. "This legislation will help to ensure their continuation."

Senator Gravel cosponsored two related bills last year. One would establish a national "Office of American Arts and Handicrafts" and a "National Center" with facilities for craftsmen and for the display and sale of such

works. In addition, it would provide federal assistance to train craftsmen.

The second measure would create an "American Folklife Center", which could make grants and scholarships to individuals or groups, and support research, exhibitions, workshops, and music festivals.

"All these measures have one overall aim — to preserve, support, and encourage American art and folklife," the Senator concluded.

Office Building

Fairbanks may be getting a major new commercial office building according to a joint announcement recently by Frank Murkowski, President of Alaska National Bank and Dr. Paul B. Hagglund, President of the Northward Operating Corporation.

Alaska National Bank of the North, in cooperation with The Northward Operating Corporation presented to the Fairbanks North Star Borough a proposal to construct a 10-story prime office building on Lacey Street between 3rd and 4th Street. The area is presently occupied by a parking lot.

The proposed Bank of the North tower building would be occupied on the first floor by the Bank and other commercial tenants, as yet unnamed. The balance of the 100,000 sq. ft. building would be available for lease by the Borough and others.

Also included in the proposal is construction of a multi-story 450 car, off street parking facility, to be located on Noble Street between 3rd and 4th Street. Facilities could be connected by a sky-bridge walk way.

Although final decisions are still pending, the new building and parking facilities could be available for occupancy by late summer of 1975.

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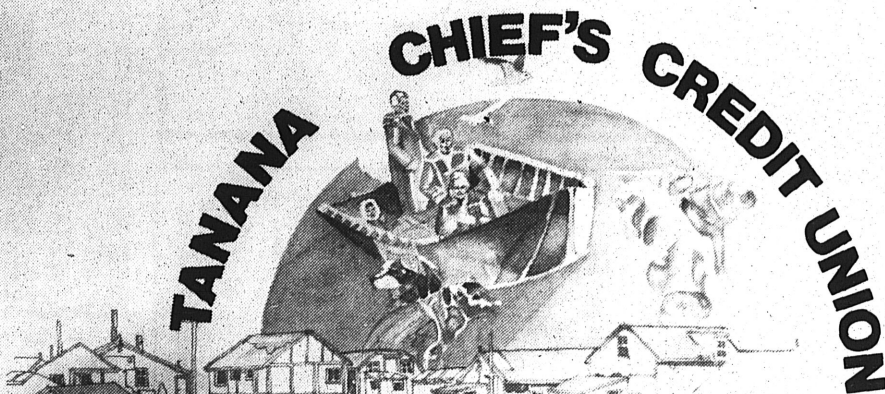
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