

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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View from Behind The Governor's Desk

By JAY S. HAMMOND

I have said the Beaufort Islands would be leased when it was in the best interest of Alaskans. Lacking that peculiar omniscience accorded some barkeepers, cabdrivers, and editorial writers, I could not earlier determine when that might be. Now, after considerable study, our Financial Options Committee agrees there are more arguments for leasing than against.

Though not required by law, public hearings have been held. Environmental assessments show no unacceptable risks. The Department of Revenue indicates we must raise \$250 million more by Fiscal Year 1977 or borrow.

The Legislature has passed a resolution urging a Beaufort lease, although the Democratic legislative leadership questions it. I commend them. High time rude questions were asked regarding State lease policy, or rather, lack of it. But, fellows, where were you when Kachemak Bay was leased by the previous Administration with neither advanced environmental assessment nor public input, and for such a low price?

Now, I know your shots are triggered by principle, not partisan politics; but to those less charitable, it should be pointed out that your concerns really support our efforts to hammer out a sane leasing policy.

To that end we are identifying critical habitat areas which should be given lowest leasing priority and conducting public hearings and environmental assessments. Also, we have drawn up standards for offshore development to which we will adhere. There are other alternatives to leasing; but most rest with the Legislature, not the executive branch. The Legislature could pass a State sales tax of ten percent or double the income tax and raise enough revenue. Again, hardly likely.

The current 20 mill tax on reserves could be increased by the Legislature to 30 and raise about \$250 million. However, because of the credit, this merely delays the crisis.

The Legislature could eliminate the credit and increase the mill rate. However, some would deem this bad faith since this tax was "sold" on the basis that the credit would be allowed.

The Legislature could approve a sale of royalty oil and gas, but the more sold the less we would have for Alaskan use.

The Legislature could place before the voter in November, 1976, a Constitutional amendment permitting borrowing beyond one year. But that would be too late. Even if we could borrow, it would simply obligate future revenues, just as did New York City.

These options are not available to the Governor. They require legislative action, which is always imponderable. In addition, any time we fund government with non-renewable resource dollars, be they from lease sales, royalties, reserves or severance taxes, we gamble. Such revenues will exhaust. If we build a house of cards on oil sands, it will collapse when oil is gone. Some proposing these alternatives forget the fact these also are mortgages on our future.

Of course, we hope to reduce State spending; but the cards are stacked against us with double-digit inflation, a State merit system coupled to collective bargaining, growth in population, and increased service. The one option available to a Governor is leasing. While there are arguments against a Beaufort sale, just as there are arguments against using any non-renewable resource revenues for expanding government — a matter in which we have some 900 million lessons — it appears that of alternatives, the Beaufort lease presents fewest problems and has advantages.

There are, for example, striking differences between the proposed federal OCS development in the Gulf and the State's Beaufort plan. On every count the Beaufort is preferable: a Beaufort lease would not be in a virgin area either offshore or onshore; there exists a transportation system for both oil and gas; the Beaufort lease would not impact communities since there are none in the immediate vicinity; and the environmental risks are far less.

A Beaufort lease next year should reduce the urgency of the OCS leasing schedule by providing an alternate energy source and in demonstrating our willingness to contribute to the national needs, if done properly.

Most agree the Beaufort will be leased someday, the question is when. The exact timing depends on many factors including the ability to time and use a lease sale to our best advantage compared to other revenue possibilities. Timing will also depend on our ability to form a satisfactory agreement with the Federal government regarding

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Letters from Here and There

A Foreigner Tries to Oust Fred Stickman

Delta Camp, Alyeska
August 22, 1975

Dear Friend:

Well Rock, I'll be here three weeks tomorrow and I haven't seen any Tundra Times. It seems so long I forgot what I wrote last. Send me several of the papers I wrote in as some want to read them again here.

Well Howard, I don't know what I'm working for. It sure as hell it's not for all the money. Last year I quit my job at home just to see the Slope and how to get a job, and just to see why the Natives don't work or some don't want to work.

Also I went here to keep in good shape and, of course, the good living. My ninth day here someone came up to me at 7 a.m. and wanted me to get out of the camp. I found out it was one of the big bosses. He told me I was no carpenter and the other carpenters were doing my work, etc.

It hit me by surprise. Everything he said to me was lies. So I went to the Timekeeper and I told her I quit. She says what's the reason. I said someone don't want me in the camp. She says what's the reason. I don't know. She says you have to have a reason to quit as we have to put it on paper. Also your foreman has to be here. So I told my foreman and he had no reason to let me go.

I went to the Native counselor and he said he was in here the day before and wanted you fired. I walked off the job but he told me to go back to work and if I don't he'll fire me. I said if you fire me, you're going with me. That's as far as it went and I'm still here.

That's the fourth time all my life that a superintendent tried to get rid of me. So that's the reason, one of the reasons, that Natives lose their jobs, but I didn't think it will happen to me again. That's as close as I got to lose the pipeline job. And I found out the one that tried to get rid of me was a Canadian. What you think about that, Howard Rock? A Canadian tried to get rid of an old Indian!

I was wishing that he fired me. Then I was going to start after him with money so he could lose his job.

Well, this is a good camp. A good camp to lose weight. We had cold sandwiches at noon. That's something I'm not used to. But I've been trying to lose weight for at least ten years. When I get fat, my heart wants to quit. I have an enlarged heart. But I don't want it to quit.

Well so long. I'll be there about the 1st of September.

Tell that girl to run over to the Post Office and mail me the last one half dozen Tundra Times, especially the ones with my letters.

Fred Stickman, Sr.
P.S. Tell that Native girl to keep the change after she mail the Tundra Times.

Office of Educ. Accepting Nominations

Department of Health,
Education and Welfare
Office of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Colleague:

This is to inform you that the Office of Education will be accepting nominations, from Indian tribes and Indian organizations, of Indians and Alaskan Natives to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE) until October 15, 1975. These nominations will be considered for appointments to NACIE for terms beginning in May 1976. New appointments will be made to all fifteen membership positions at that time.

Enclosed is an announcement which appeared in the Federal Register indicating how nominations should be made and the factors that will be considered in making final selections. Nominations should be made according to the following categories: (1) Professional educators, (2) laymen involved in education, (3) students, and (4) individuals with other than education experience.

A further explanation of these categories is contained in the Federal Register announcement. Two-thirds of the final selections (10 members) will be from the other categories.

Terms of the members will be staggered in order to maintain continuity, while broadening the base of Indian community involvement. Five members will be selected for one-year terms, five for two-year terms, and five for three-year terms. Following the initial appointments, vacancies will be filled for three-year appointments.

Forms for submitting nominations are enclosed. If additional copies are needed, they are available from the Office of Indian Education. Please provide all the information requested on the form for each of your nominees. Also, please note that the nomination form must be signed by the authorized tribal or Indian organization official submitting the nomination. Completed forms should be returned to the Office of Indian Education, U.S. Office of Education, Room 4043, FOB-6, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
T.H. Bell
U.S. Commissioner
of Education

REPORT DESCRIBES EROSION

A new open-file report by the U.S. Geological Survey presents descriptions of preconstruction conditions at selected channel sites along the southern segment of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System from Flood Creek to Valdez, Alaska.

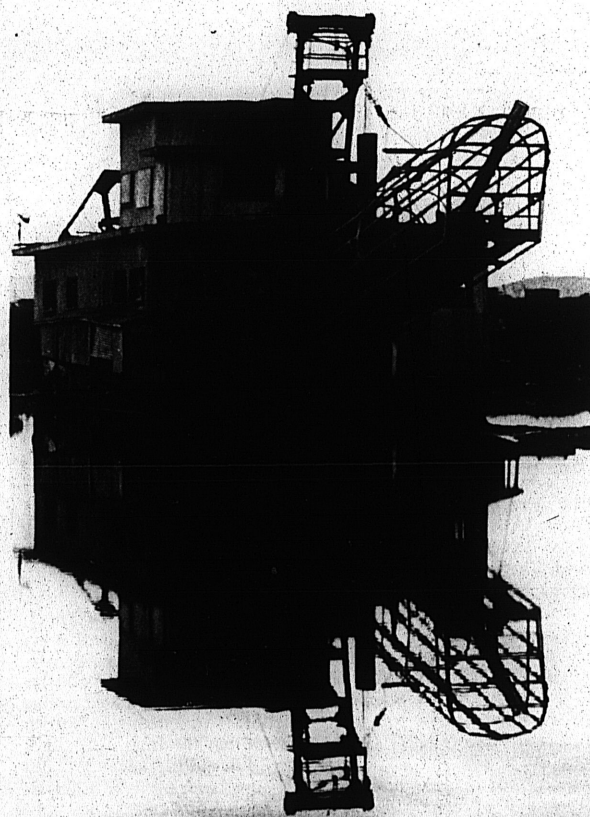
The information presented can be used in studies of severe channel erosion, streambed scour, bank erosion, or rechannelization.

The report also presents a plan for detecting and measuring significant erosion and the

important factors causing the erosion, such as flood discharge, icing development, and construction activities.

The title of this report is "Channel Erosion Surveys Along Southern Segment of the TAPS Route, Alaska, 1972 and 1973," by Joseph M. Childers.

The report and any questions or information about the report may be obtained from the Alaska District Chief, Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, 218 E Street, Anchorage, AK 99501.



IDLE GOLD DREDGE — This machine monster used to mool for gold around the vicinity of the historic City of Nome but it now lays quiet and still as if it expected to be reactivated. Gold was the main reason for the emergence of Nome and it may still be the jumping off point for the mineral search that has been going on in the Bering Sea city. It is also the seat of operation for the emerging Bering Straits Native Corp., the business arm of the Bering Straits Native Association.

— Photo by MARC OLSON