



# ANAKTUVUK FUEL AID ASKED

## Gov., Attorney Predict Speedy Land Solution

Governor Walter J. Hickel and attorney Stanley McCutcheon predicted the rapid solution of land claim problems following a conference Tuesday.

Neither gave any details on the manner in which the solution would be found, and Hickel indicated that many details were still in the formulation stage.

However, he said that the first step of the solution would be revealed at a conference he has requested with Native leaders in Anchorage on Feb. 26.

McCutcheon, who had requested the talk with the governor, praised Hickel's approach to the land claims.

"He is on the road to solution of the overall Native problem," said McCutcheon. "He has a real burning desire to assist the Natives in their economic plight."

"The proposals the governor will announce at Anchorage will be of interest to all of the Native peoples of Alaska. I know the Natives will be pleased," said McCutcheon.

Although no date for final settlement of the problem was given, Hickel said it "will be resolved before I leave office."

Others at the conference were Attorney General Donald A. Burr, State land counsel Edgar P. Boyko and Anchorage attorney Clifford Groh, who represents the Tyonek Indians.

## Legislation to Open Up North Introduced

Legislation to help open up the northern part of the state has been introduced by Governor Hickel's administration.

Two of the four bills would set up a Northern Operators of Rail Transportation and Highways, a commission to open



ESKIMO CHAMPION - Isaac Okleasik of Teller gives a pat of encouragement to one of his sled dogs after completing the tiring Iditarod Trail Centennial race. Okleasik won both heats of the race to take home \$7,000 prize money.

Courtesy of the Anchorage Daily News

## Okleasik Captures Centennial Race

Isaac Okleasik, a 46-year-old Eskimo from Teller, Alaska, was the winner of the Iditarod Trail Centennial Dog Sled Race last weekend.

The crowd-pleasing musher pumped his 11-dog team to a first place win on both days to take home a record \$7,000 prize money. He finished two minutes and 13 seconds ahead of Pete Shepherd of Fairbanks.

Okleasik is a working musher who puts in an average of 600 miles a month. This informal training paid off on the tiring 27.8 mile trail.

In the first heat on Saturday, Okleasik passed 16 teams to gain a slim 13-second lead over 19-year-old Billy Sturdevant of Anchorage. Sturdevant closed the gap at one time Sunday, but the trail was too long and his dogs tired. He finished third behind Pete Shepherd.

Shepherd was one of four Fairbanks mushers to finish in the top ten. The others were Steve Lasonsky, fourth; Harold Greenway, sixth; and Gareth Wright, ninth. They admitted to running a grudge race among themselves.

Huslia also made a strong showing with two top racers - George Attila Jr., in fifth place, and Werner Vent in seventh. Larry Westlake of Kiana won eighth place.

Two eastern veterinarians Charles Belford of Deerfield,

## ASNA Queries Colorado Oil Company for Use Of Sleds to Haul Oil

The Arctic Slope Native Association has asked the Colorado Oil and Gas Corporation for equipment to help relieve the fuel shortage at the village of Anaktuvuk Pass.

ASNA has asked the corporation to loan, lease, or donate three of the sleds the corporation has based at Umiat. The village would use them, and a tractor it already

owns, to haul its fuel supply during the winter.

Anaktuvuk Pass is located 50 miles past the timberline in the Brooks Range, and has suffered from a fuel shortage for many years.

The residents are presently using willows for fuel. They either haul them on dogsleds or carry them on their backs.

With the sleds, the villagers expect to be able to meet their fuel needs for the full year with two trips during the winter.

In addition to the wood and coal supplies in the region,

(continued on Page 6)

## Sam Taalak Re-Elected ASNA President

Sam Taalak was declared re-elected as president of the Arctic Slope Native Association by 10 votes over Eben Hopson, after the two had sweated out a month-long wait for the votes to be received.

Bad Weather, lack of communications, distance, and human error were blamed for the delay in receiving votes from some villages. Even after the votes were in, they had to be recounted several times because of the narrow margin between Taalak and Hopson.

One other ASNA officer

(continued on Page 6)

## Legislative Council Seats Jules Wright

Representative Jules Wright, R-Fairbanks, was appointed to serve on the Legislative Council this week.

The Council holds hearings in Alaskan communities on proposed legislation.

Wright is president of the Fairbanks Native Association.

## Dan Lisbourne Recommended For Appointment

Dan Lisbourne of Point Hope has been recommended for appointment to the Fish and Game Commission by the Arctic Slope Native Association.

ASNA recommended Lisbourne for his personal quality, his record of service to the public, and his ability to add to the range of viewpoints represented on the board.

The recommendation described him as having "served the people in many capacities for a number of years and who is known as a hard, impractical and just worker in the public interest."

ASNA said that the appointment would give Statewide representation to the board, and more nearly give voice to the diversification of the problems of all areas.

## Gov. Romney, Gov. Hickel to Dog Race on Lincoln Day

A "fur carpet" reception and a dogsled race between governors will provide an Alaskan flavor for Michigan Governor George Romney's visit to Anchorage this Saturday.

Romney, prominently mentioned as a Presidential candidate in 1968, will make a major address on national and international issues at the Republican Party's annual Lincoln Day Dinner.

When he arrives at 8:15 a.m. he will set foot first on a large carpet of assorted Alaskan furs, provided by Greater Anchorage Inc. The Lincoln Day Committee is also hoping

to locate some people who knew Romney back in Michigan to help in the greeting.

At 10 a.m., Romney will join in a sled dog race against Alaskan Governor Walter Hickel. It is believed that neither has ever handled a dog team before. The race will kick-off the two-week World Championship Fur Rendezvous Dog Races.

Romney will attend a reception at the Captain Cook Hotel at 6:30 p.m. and the Lincoln Day Dinner at 8 p.m. His speech there will be covered by 30 visiting journalists, two television networks, and local radio and T.V.

## Village of Aniak Hosts Meeting Of Delegates from 17 Villages

In the interest of social-economic betterment for 16 towns and villages on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers of Western Alaska, a series of meetings were held at Aniak, Thursday, Friday and Saturday January 26, 27, and 28, according to Don Harris, McGrath contractor.

The following towns and villages were represented: Nickolai, Medfra, McGrath, Stony River, Sleetmute, Red Devil, Georgetown, Crooked Creek, Russian Mission (Kusko

kwim), Aniak, Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, Russian Mission (Yukon), Holy Cross, Anvik, Greyling and Shageluk.

The desire for such a meeting had built up to its present high pitch of interest over a period of the past several months. Thus, the meeting was planned and invitations were extended for each village to send representatives to the Aniak meeting. This groundwork was done by Cooperative

(continued on Page 4)

(continued on Page 4)