

# The Alaska Plan-Will It Work in the Future? . . .

mitted an overall plan as to how it would implement the concept of "native involvement" in the construction of the pipeline.

Since no permit has been issued, the Department has not ruled on the plan and very few people have seen the final draft, even within the ranks of Alyeska management.

The plan calls for Alyeska to actively participate in training Natives both for construction jobs and for management and supervisory positions. No such training is now ongoing on an organized basis although one Native employee is being trained for an accounting position.

As one spokesman for the company put it, "You can hardly expect the company to invest in an all-out training program for an event which may never come to pass."

He added that the company cannot initiate negotiations with sub-contractors for minority hire plans because "We don't at this time know who the contractors and sub-contractors will be. At one time, we had letters of intent to bid on the project from four firms, but they have long since expired."

"We have shelved the plan (for Native involvement) until the permit is issued."

Pat Mayo, head of the federal Office for Equal Opportunity for the Alaska Region, sympathized with Alyeska's plight.

"Who should undertake this

training?" she asked. "Can we force a private system to train the general public when they have no guarantee of a return on their investment?"

"And if it is not Alyeska's responsibility to undertake this training, whose job is it?" Ms. Mayo pointed out that President Nixon's recent budget cuts hit very hard at precisely these kind of training funds.

"That leaves the state of Alaska," she concluded.

And with the state of Alaska waiting for its share of oil revenues from the pipeline, it is as little likely to plunge into expensive training programs as all other parties.

What, in fact, is being done to prepare for the tremendous numbers of workers that will be required for construction if and when the pipeline goes? What training programs exist and are now functioning? How will minorities enter the picture?

At the present time, there are normal apprentice programs conducted by union and management in the construction trades.

The Seward Skill Center, operated jointly by the Department of Labor, the state's Vocational Rehabilitation program, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, operates what is probably the largest single training program in the state.

The Seward facility serves four to five hundred trainees a year in a dormitory-style en-

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virement. It is designed to upgrade skills among the unemployed, underemployed and disadvantaged peoples of Alaska.

Training is offered in four "occupational clusters," clerical, food service, mechanical, and building maintenance.

The next largest training cen-

## Violet Arrow's Death . .

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ferred several times the day of her death. Emmick said those convulsions were aggravated by alcohol and withdrawal.

Emmick said Mrs. Arrow received medication, but when put into a stretcher to await transportation back to the SDC, she climbed off and walked out twice.

She also climbed out of a wheel chair she was placed in, and stretched out on the floor, Emmick said. Finally, he added, he told nurses to leave her alone, just to stick a pillow under her head on the floor.

If Emmick wanted Mrs. Arrow returned to the SDC, the SDC did NOT. Several employees of the SDC gave lengthy testimony stating that Mrs. Arrow was obviously in need, in their opinion, of medical treatment rather than detoxification.

Emmick said that when Mrs. Arrow was returned to the ANMC he called the SDC to say he felt the problem was alcoholic withdrawal.

Dr. F. J. Phillips, called by SDC, examined Violet Arrow, noted she had "a flail left leg (obviously broken) a hoarse rattle in her lungs, she was coughing up thick sputum, and she was very disoriented."

"It was my opinion," said Dr. Phillips, "that she was a medical case. I thought there was a good indication that she needed intensive medical care. I thought she had pneumonia."

He typed a memo which was given to the ambulance driver but ANMC officials say they never received the memo and it cannot now be located.

Emmick went off duty, but was alerted by another physician when she was brought in, apparently in much worse condition than when first seen at the hospital. The doctor said he was "very shocked" the next day to learn that she had died.

Dr. Robert Fortune, director of the ANMC, said he had no personal, direct knowledge of the case, but that he did review it. Fortune said that as Mrs. Arrow's condition appeared worse, Dr. Emmick had made arrangement for her admission and asked to be kept notified of the case.

Ms. Strauss, SDC's registered nurse, testified that the borough ambulance, the Red Wagon, took more than an hour to arrive to take Mrs. Arrow back to the hospital; (this for the fourth visit to the hospital within 24 hours.)

Fortune countered later that the Red Wagon had NOT been called on an emergency basis.

But perhaps the most extraordinary testimony of all came from Samuel Pedro, a driver for the ANMC.

Pedro testified that he went to the outpatient department of the medical center the afternoon of April 5 to pick up Mrs. Arrow and return her to the SDC. Pedro said she was unable to walk at that time; that she was lying on the floor with the pillow under her head.

Pedro said his orders were to return her and an intoxicated man to their respective residences. However, the intoxicated man fell asleep in the back

seat with a large potential for growth is the new Wildwood Complex at Kenai, under the direction of former AFN president Don Wright.

Local school districts, community colleges, and universities all conduct adult education courses.

seat of the medical center car and efforts to move him to the front seat failed, Pedro said. So Mrs. Arrow was put in the front seat, half on her knees, for the trip.

Then, Pedro testified, he couldn't find the SDC and had to ask security police in the area where it was. "It was quite a lot of time before I got there," he said.

Pedro said SDC personnel seemed surprised that Mrs. Arrow had been returned and told him to take her back. He took her back, but now hospital personnel told him there was a mixup.

Pedro was told to wait around, but he was tired of waiting, he said, so he drove back to the front part of the hospital.

"Nobody came out to see her" from the outpatient department the second time around and nobody asked why she was there again, he said.

After about 30 minutes, Pedro said, the orders came to take her back to SDC.

Pedro said Mrs. Arrow only spoke to him twice in the two hours she was in the car; "once she asked me to see her daughter (a patient at the ANMC) and once if she could open the window."

When the ordeal of Mrs. Arrow began, nobody is sure, but according to the observations of nurse Jean Strauss, she was incapacitated and in great pain when she was returned to the SDC the afternoon of April 5, about 2:24 p.m.

So Mrs. Arrow was returned to the medical center. When she was returned at 4:30 p.m. to SDC "it took four people to carry her in from the car," Mrs. Strauss said.

"About 5 p.m. she had another seizure and the Red Wagon was called. It arrived at 7 p.m. to take Mrs. Arrow to the hospital. At last, she was admitted. Then she was dead.

Alyeska's own study on the impact of the pipeline now projects a training figure of between 1600 and 3000 Natives, in order to utilize the required quota of Native hire required by the Alaska Plan and the Department of the Interior directive.

Since this training is not now taking place, Alyeska management admitted that if the pipeline were granted tomorrow, training of Alaska Natives would have to take the form of on-the-job training.

It almost precludes the assumption that Alaska Natives are going to be used as semi-skilled workers, for more skilled trades would require that strong, ongoing programs be operational now.

Alyeska was asked directly, "When discussing Native involvement on the pipeline, are you thinking primarily of semi-skilled jobs?"

After a long pause, the answer was, "Yes I would say that."

Tim Wallis, executive with DNH Corporation, a native-owned construction company, commented, "There are two big work forces in the State: one is organized labor, the other is unorganized labor. The majority of Alaska Natives are in the second group."

Nevertheless, Wallis was optimistic that the pipeline would increase job possibilities for Natives.

"By getting a large enough labor force," he said, "you open the door for Natives into the unions. Anybody working on that pipeline is going to be making good wages, whether he's a cook or an accountant."

Wallis said the Tanana Chiefs and Doyon, Ltd. would like to see a big training area in surveying. "This could be utilized very well after the pipeline because we have a lot of surveying to be done on our own lands."

Most of the Native leaders interviewed felt that Alyeska would make every effort to fulfill its obligation to involve the Native population in a significant and meaningful way in the construction period.

"I don't think Alyeska will overlook the local people and bring in outside workers beyond what they need in certain specific fields," said Wallis.

"I think we're looking more at them bringing in their ad-

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## Bush Wins Victory . . .

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discharge payments, and clothing to all state prisoners upon release AT ANY STAGE of the criminal proceedings."

An interesting side point is that if the defendant had pleaded guilty and was sentenced, he would have received transportation home.

There are actual cases where people have done exactly this knowing they would get home sooner than if waiting for all the legal proceedings to take place.

By not providing transportation, ALS argued that the defendant did not have the actual freedom that the Court intended him to have, that was his right, and that was consistent with the presumption of innocence before trial.

In very human terms, the man from Stoney River could not engage in his livelihood, which was operating a trapline, his only source of income. Nor could he return to Stoney River to help his attorney gather facts for his defense.

Eventually he borrowed the \$40 to return home but was unsure how he would pay it

back and how he would pay his way back for the final trial.

The case of the Stoney River man was not an isolated happening. Many Alaska Natives have found themselves charged with a crime, arrested, flown hundred of miles from home, released until trial, and left with no money to survive in the city or to get back home.

Fortunately, last month's case has changed the "policy". Attorney General John Havelock issued a directive changing the official policy and guaranteeing every person transportation back to the place of his or her arrest upon release at any stage of a criminal proceeding.

The cost will be paid by the Department of Public Safety. If the defendant does not wish to return to that place, he may choose any site that would be within the same amount needed to send him back to the place of arrest.

Now, not only the man from Stoney River (who was refunded his \$40) but all bush residents will no longer languish many miles from home awaiting trial.

## Senator Cliff Groh . . .

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increase over three years of \$5.3 million.

Commenting on the \$1.5 million cutback in funds needed to correct fireinspection and safety checks in SOS schools Groh claims the reduction was made by the Governor's budget review staff, "long before the legislators ever saw the figures."

Groh also pointed out that the Yukon River Ferry System study did not die as stated, but that it was funded in the amount of \$50,000.

The senator mentioned the House Bill 1, an act relating to guides, and C.S.H.B. 90 appropriating \$76,679 to the Reindeer Affairs Board as two pieces of "hunting legislation" which was not mentioned.

Groh felt that statement made regarding Alaska State Housing Authority were misleading, and stated that housing for rural areas does not fall under this agency, which is federally funded.

"Telling your readers that the State provided nothing for bush housing is like comparing

an eagle's nest with a colonial mansion: the concept is that of a home but the building methods are completely opposed."

Although Robert Butler of ASHA could not be contacted this week his office confirmed that a proposal is still pending in the governor's office which does relate to state funding for rural housing.

In 1969 the State voted to appropriate funds by the sale of state bonds to assume the Bartlett plan for rural housing abandoned by the U.S. Congress.

The bonds have apparently been sold and there was an attempt by House Leader Tom Fink to return that money to the general treasury. Fink's proposal was defeated and the ASHA proposal is still pending.

Since the death of the federal Indian Housing Program under HUD, the state funds voted for the Bartlett Plan are the only money currently available for Native housing in the State.

Tundra Times assumed that since the State had once before involved itself in the funding of rural housing, the 8th Alaska State Legislature could have also done so if it had been of a mind.

The Alaska Native by and large has neither an eagle's nest nor a colonial mansion, and if action is not taken on rural housing in the near future and the pipeline permit should be granted, the state will face an acute housing shortage.

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