



# AFN MOVES TO PROTECT NAME

## Jay Rabinowitz Asks Bush Court Facilities

JUNEAU — Chief Justice Jay Rabinowitz of the Alaska Supreme Court has asked legislative approval of one million dollars for improved court facilities at Barrow and Bethel.

"The court system's capital budget requests for the next fiscal year include two capital improvement projects which are very important," Rabinowitz told a joint session of the legislature Thursday in his "State of the Judiciary Address."

"These will build court facilities at Bethel and Barrow... (where) new and needed services will be crowded into space which is already extremely inadequate," he said.

Rabinowitz told the legislators that facilities at Barrow, which is being considered as the center of another judicial service area, are very inadequate.

He also cited observations by Judge Mary Alice Miller and Justice James Fitzgerald, two members of the governor's Commission on the Administration of Criminal Justice, who participated in recent commission hearings at Bethel.

They found the 16 by 24 foot courtroom barely able to seat six jurors for a trial. In addition, there are no witness, attorney, or jury rooms, no clerk's office nor chambers for the judge. Working space for the administrative staff is also located in the courtroom, for lack of adequate space elsewhere.

"In this courtroom there is no possibility of creating an atmosphere of quiet dignity. Indispensable to a court," Miller and Fitzgerald wrote. "There is instead incredible crowding and confusion from the lack of essential space."

Rabinowitz meanwhile called creation of a judicial service area for Bethel "one of the most interesting accomplishments of the past year" (for the court system).

"Before this service area was created, responsibility for judicial matters in the Kuskokwim-Lower Yukon region was divided among the Second, Third and Fourth Judicial District," he said. "Major trials were held in Fairbanks or Anchorage, far from the citizens most concerned with the proceedings."

"Trials held in Bethel required two days of travel by Judge Sanders of Nome just to reach the community. Because grand juries were convened in Anchorage or Fairbanks, witnesses from villages in the region traveled long distances from their homes. Police protection was reduced because troopers in Bethel spent long periods of time waiting to testify before the grand juries in Fairbanks or

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SAFE AND SOUND — Liz Murphy sits in front of the Chatanika River cabin she had left before running into trouble on the trail to Murphy Dome. Photo by M. Sgt. Bill Thompson

## Chatinika River Gal is Cautious After Close Call in Wilderness

By CHARLES MALLEY

Just how deadly the Alaskan winter can be became frighteningly real to a young Fairbanks woman this past December.

Liz Murphy thinks her story is worth telling if it will help even a single person to think twice before setting out across country in winter.

Last summer Liz moved with her husband, John Murphy, from Fairbanks to a wilderness cabin on the Chatanika River, 15 miles by trail north from Murphy Dome. Living in a remote cabin is something they had always wanted to do, and to this day they are enjoying it immensely.

During the course of the winter, the Murphys sold their house in town and Liz decided to hike in to prepare the house for the new occupants. Leaving John at the cabin, she started out on foot in the morning with John's brother, Bob Murphy.

The trail is kept open by snow machine and winds up through heavily-timbered country on the lower slopes near the Chatanika, then out onto the high, treeless ridges leading to 2,930-foot Murphy Dome.

"The going wasn't difficult at first," said Liz. "Everything seemed normal." She had decided to wear her husband's boots, about three sizes too large, but providing the warmth she wanted. Bob wore low-cut waffle-stompers. Neither had snowshoes.

After eight hours had passed, the two hikers realized that they should have reached the Dome

long ago. They had climbed to the upper ridges where the wind blew fiercely over bare hills, piling up snowdrifts and obliterating the trail. Visibility was zero and winds caused a chill factor of 60 below zero.

Liz found herself struggling through hip-deep snow, barely able to make out the trail. Bob, lean and long-legged, ranged on ahead, back-tracking periodically to check on his partner. "He was covering twice the distance I was," Liz said.

A bright moon helped them to see for a while, but retreated behind clouds, compounding their plight. Liz became extremely tired and was able to

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## AFN Inc. Officials Put Corporate Papers in Order with State D.C.

JUNEAU — Officials of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. have put their corporate papers in order with the state, paving the way for possible action to protect the name of AFN Inc.

Completed updated annual reports for AFN Inc., for the years 1971, 1972 and 1973 were submitted to the Alaska Department of Commerce Friday, by Roger Lang, president of the statewide Native Federation.

Lang and others among the leadership of the AFN Inc. have been disturbed by recent action taken outside the organization by a group seeking a liquor license, collecting money for a dog team on the Iditarod race and supporting a legislative bill all in the name of "The Alaska Federation of Natives."

The group is led by Don Wright, former AFN president and now a gubernatorial candidate.

"If he wants to run for governor, that's his personal prerogative," Lang told the Tundra Times Saturday. What Lang objects to is use of the statewide organization's name "in behalf of the people, for personal gain."

Lang said he was also disturbed about the connection between liquor licenses and the statewide Native organization.

"I'm not sure I want AFN's name used for liquor dispensing," he said. "Recent history indicates a lot of villages and towns are reconsidering liquor problems and going dry. The problem liquor creates far outweighs what it brings in (to the village)," he said.

Lang is also quick to note that the AFN did not even take a stand on the legislation, by State Rep. Larry Peterson, D-Ft. Yukon, which Wright says the statewide organization supports.

"I don't know what our name is worth, but it's very misleading when they use AFN, with the



ROGER LANG  
AFN Inc. President

"Inc." or not," he said.

"The old AFN was dissolved in convention, by action of AFN delegates, in favor of the new AFN Inc.," he said. "It's not something that Don Wright by himself or Roger Lang by himself can do. I'm afraid of any type of organization that represents people, but it can also be used to further personal ambitions and I'm afraid that's what it is being used for now," he said.

Lang also questions whether Wright has legal authority to use the AFN Inc. three-ring emblem, designed during the presidency of Emil Notti, before passage of the Land Claims Act.

## Amicus Curiae Brief to Be Filed by CAP

Because of the tremendous impact on the high school education of thousands of Eskimo, Indian, and Aleut children, Rural Alaska Community Action Program's Board of Directors recently voted to file an Amicus Curiae Brief, (friend of the court), in the Molly Hootch Case, a class action suit against Alaska State-Operated Schools.

Superior Court Judge, James Singleton, ruled in January in favor of the state on the first count of the case which concerned denial of constitutional rights.

Rural CAP's Deputy Director, Phil Smith, reported that he had been working closely with Alaska Legal Services who had originally filed the brief in behalf of Molly Hootch and re-

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## Editorial Comment—

## TT's Existence Filled With Many Crises

This editor doesn't yet know what real security is meant as far as Tundra Times is concerned. He has had to live through crisis after crisis ever since the newspaper first came into the field of journalism back in October 1, 1962. Many kind of headaches followed soon after the other. The dedicated little staff has had to try to keep the nose of the paper above water even to loaning it money from some individual staffer to keep going or delay their paychecks a week at a time. If gray hairs are signs of stress on an individual, Tundra Times must be a prime source for causing them.

But we are not knocking the publication. We have

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