

Chain Reaction

Barrow educator Bill Vaudrin Passes . . .

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WASHINGTON—Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, said now that the Senate has passed the 200 mile fisheries bill, he hopes he is wrong in his fears that it will "start a chain reaction around the world" and thus hurt international negotiations at the Law of the Sea Conference.

Gravel said he opposed the bill because he felt other nations would follow the U.S. lead in taking unilateral action "as they perceive it" and damage chances of reaching international agreement that would protect Alaska's salmon stocks.

The Alaska lawmaker said he sought to get a compromise amendment to implement a fish conservation program to restore fish stocks that are depleted. Although 37 senators supported the effort to work out a solution through a 1958 Geneva agreement, the amendment was withdrawn before a final vote on it.

Gravel said he will continue his efforts at the Law of the Sea Conference to get an international agreement that will effectively solve the fisheries problems, especially for Alaska's salmon stocks, which swim beyond 200 miles.

The bill, which passed the Senate by a vote of 76 to 19, has a provision to delay its enforcement until July 1, 1977. Gravel voted for the July 1 enforcement date, but voted against the bill on final passage.

In an article in the Inupiat University catalog he said, "not only have the systems of public education in Alaska failed to provide the kind of training necessary for Alaska Native students had graduates to return to their own home village and live happy productive lives, but despite the fact that Native languages and cultures and traditions were consciously and systematically stripped away and supplanted in the schools by use of English and a total educational program designed to

promote assimilation into the urban Anglo lifestyle."

Vaudrin defined the primary goal of the Inupiat University "as providing the education to our children that will enable them to live comfortably in any lifestyle ranging from the traditional subsistence way of life of the Inupiat to the technocratic society or any combination of the two."

Vaudrin was also a strong supporter of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome.

He said the race "was one of the few chances left to be fully alive in today's world...ask anyone who's ever crossed the finish line in Nome."

Vaudrin's father was a Chippewa Indian who raised his son on the Tribe's reservation. Vaudrin said while he regretted never having learned the Chippewa language, "the part

my father was hoping for has come about. I mastered English and I intend to use it."

He was a resident of Pedro Bay for several years, and published a book entitled, "Tanaina Tales from Alaska" in 1969. He also wrote "Native-Non-Native Communications," creating a two-way flow of communication.

Energy Task Force . . .

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the State.

The Task Force found that funds are often available from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, The Department of Housing and Urban Development, Rural Development Agency, Rural-Cap, and Standard Oil for fuel related loans and grants. More effort is needed to inform and assist the public concerning the procedures to obtain these funds.

According to the Task Force careful economic, cost-benefit, and risk analysis should precede capital projects requiring state financial participation.

The Rural Energy Task Force recommends that the State of Alaska establish a Bulk Fuel Storage Fund to be used either

individually or collectively with other State, Federal, or private funds for the construction of Bulk Fuel facilities in those villages determined to need such storage.

Grants and/or loans, under the provisions of this fund may be made to the village corporation, the village council, and/or any other form of local government or authority or individual business within said village or authority.

The Task Force further recommends that such funds be used as a loan in those instances which repayment is definite and where management costs administering the loan are not prohibitive.

The Task Force recommends that such funds be used as grants in those instances where loan repayment and management are not feasible.

The Rural Energy Task Force recommends that the Alaska State Energy Office, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and the private sector determine the practicality of multi-village cooperative storage facilities and make recommendations to Village and Regional Corporations, the fuel industry, government agencies and interested parties based upon that determination.

The Rural Energy Task Force encourages private corporations and business to investigate the possibilities and opportunities in the bulk fuel transportation business within Alaska.

The Task Force recommends that the State Energy Office conduct a village by village energy survey to determine rural energy requirements and projected needs, along with the costs and alternative procedures for development of alternate energy resources to meet these needs.

Any persons having questions about the findings of the Rural Energy Task Force may contact them at the Alaska State Energy Office, Office of the Governor, Juneau, Alaska; or 338 Denali Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Sculpture . . .

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worked in large scale previously.

Deadline for entries consisting of sketches, slides and a resume are due at the Alaska Association for the Arts office by March 12, 1976.

The prospectus is available by writing to the Association at Box 2786, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707 or from the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Visual Arts Center, Alaska Methodist University, and the Anchorage Historical & Fine Arts Museum, all in Anchorage, the Alaska State Museum in Juneau, University of Alaska campuses statewide, and from local community arts councils.

United Bank of Alaska . . .

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Bank President Arnold Gietz, has been working to open the bank since early 1975, was cautious but confident as he reflected on the future of UBA. "Our plan is to establish branches and obviously grow with Alaska and grow with the needs and economy of Alaska."

In addition to earning dividends for the stockholders of the five owner corporations, UBA hopes to respond to some of the special needs of rural Alaska. According to Robert Bonjorni, senior vice president, UBA hopes to improve the housing loan situation for bush residents. "We are going to, as we have the funding and personnel available, and the

proper programs to justify secondary marketing, take a good look at the bush area housing needs," he said.

Although bank officers were quick to emphasize that UBA is a general service bank open to all customers, it was impossible to ignore the unique aspect of the bank as a joint business venture of nearly half the Native regional corporations. Together, they kicked in \$3 million to get the bank going.

Hensley summed it up neatly when he pointed out, "My feeling was that we were going to have to have banks to handle our money and we might just as well put our own money in our own bank."

Financing boon . . .

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IFA is \$50,000. The local applicants "are incensed," he said.

Natanson got wind of the Thompson memo during a meeting at the BIA office in Juneau Jan. 20 and has since been trying to fight it.

His boss at the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Thomas Richards Jr., fired off a letter to the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. on Jan. 23, urging that Alaska Native organizations "immediately confront the Bureau on this point and persuade the Bureau to provide an equal level of services to all Alaska Natives regardless of residence."

"The Bureau may explain that the determination of eligibility for Indian Finance Act services may have been made because of limitations on the funds available. However, I am concerned that any definition of reservation and non-reservation areas in Alaska will foreshadow a cutback in many programs other than the Bureau's financing programs," Richards said.

Richards is not alone in his feelings. There are others who feel it is the start of a BIA cutback in many services.

Thompson, an Athabascan Indian from Tanana, Alaska, argues the point with a different twist in his memo. He says the purpose of the act is to improve and promote the economic development of reservations.

"To carry out this purpose the act requires...pertaining to grants that the economic enterprise to be funded must be

on or near reservations, which is also the regulatory requirement for all programs under the act.

"An enterprise located in a non-reservation area must be near a reservation and have a direct economic benefit to a qualified reservation area," Thompson said.

Fairbanks Native businessmen, however, have already consulted a local attorney and say they're going to try and protect their eligibility status.

The Indian Financing Act itself mentions that the definition of reservation "includes...land held by incorporated groups, regional corporations, and village corporations under the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act."

It does not specify that eligibility is available only to reservation Natives. It says that the Natives must have formed an organization satisfactory to the Secretary of Interior or be individual Indians who are not members of or eligible for membership in an organization which is making loans to its members.

Advertisements for grant applicants appearing in Alaska newspapers in November and December of 1975 said that Indian individuals, groups of Indian individuals, Indian tribes or Indian corporations were invited to apply.

The only mention of geography was a specification that projects applied for must be located within the state of Alaska.

Barrow: "Sign on" . . .

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carried state-wide via the Associated Press and picked up by ABC radio for national coverage."

The history preceding the climatic ending to Sign-On for KBRW was highlighted at the local level by their going through four different changes in Chairman of the Local Board.

At the state level A.E.B.C. could never ascertain whether they had an organization that could legally be considered a non-profit board, at the national level there were regulations dating back to 1939 that caused the Coast Guard to oppose, then support the filing and then pass it to the Navy who at first opposed then not only supported but approved the lease for the real estate. There were no less than four different suggestions for a studio site. Following is a brief log of the events:

LOG OF KBRW HISTORY
Feb., 1974: \$180,000 appropriated for construction and operation of radio station in Barrow for FY75.

July, 1974: AEBC Chairman Stowell Johnstone and Executive Director, Marvin Weatherly, go to Barrow and work out a time table to get station on the air by July of 1975.

March, 1975: Coast Guard quotes regulation from 1939 handbook stating that transmitter of this size would interfere with their communications system. Ray Nageak replaces Dorcas Thompson as second Chairman of Silakkuagvik Communications.

April, 1975: In response to queries to Coast Guard by A.E.B.C. and Consulting Engineers at Hammett & Edison, the Coast Guard drops objections and passes the question to the Navy.

May, 1975: Lease for real estate worked out with Navy and Silakkuagvik-drafted by A.E.B.C. and finally approved.

June, 1975: AEBC advises Roy Nageak, Chairman, Silakkuagvik Inc., that FCC application is sitting in Washington, D.C., awaiting his signature on Articles of Incorporation.

July, 1975: A.E.B.C. advised at meeting that Roy Nageak no longer Chairman, that Billy Neokok was now Chairman.

September, 1975: Billy Neokok recommends Ed Parsons as consultant and Abel Akpik as General Manager.

October, 1975: A.E.B.C. sends Henry Ivanoff, Station Manager, KYUK to present Sign On problems and Henry reports on financial matters and recommend Ed Parsons as consultant, but a construction engineer necessary for installation.

November 18, 1975: AEBC interviews and hires Jim Dillon, Engineer to serve in Alaska with first duty to construct KBRW in Barrow.

December 1, 1975: Abel Akpik resigns as General Manager, though the A.E.B.C. had never approved him.

December 15, 1975: After receipt of bids from major suppliers 1 KW purchased from Harris Co. for \$11,885.

December 20, 1975: Equipment arrives in Barrow.

December 19, 1975: FCC grants temporary operating license.

December 22, 1975: KBRW signs on at noon.

Though KBRW is now broadcasting, there are still some matters regarding past and future funding procedures that will have to be worked out for a continuing service.

A subcommittee of A.E.B.C. commissioners comprised of Eric Eckholm, Anchorage, Lee Salisbury, Fairbanks, and June Nelson, Kotzebue, will be meeting with Jim Dillon and the new Silakkuagvik Board to observe the operation and to discuss accounting requirements.

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