

# Local Contractors ...

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he added the congressmen seemed satisfied with his response.

According to Ridenhour, while the storm was still ravaging Northwest Alaska, Heffle, who is also disaster chairman for the Tanana Chapter of the Red Cross, called him from Nome for an estimate on the cost of a house to replace those destroyed by the storm. Ridenhour's estimated including freight and the cost of construction was \$33,900 per house.

Ridenhour asserted that no Alaskan firms were invited to bid on the Nome houses. He added that the price quoted by the Oregon firm was \$35,000, which did not include the cost of assembling the housing components in Nome.

In response to charges that the contracting firm did not utilize local hire, Antioquia said more than 40 residents of the Seward Peninsula area were employed to build the houses.

Ridenhour said although the BIA in Nome and Juneau was fully appraised that Independent Lumber could supply the housing components and another Fairbanks firm the construction crew, the contract was awarded to a firm in Oregon, Niedermeyer-Martin.

Antioquia said he was not aware of any firm approaching the BIA in November or December seeking the Nome contract. He added the BIA did not become directly involved in the emergency housing problem until mid-December.

Antioquia also pointed out that in both cases the plan for the houses was one prepared by the BIA and approved by the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

Antioquia told the Tundra Times that in a presidentially-declared disaster, under authority of the Federal Disaster Act, it is possible for involved government agencies to bypass normal bidding procedures to ease an emergency situation, and that this is what was done.

This is also the essence of a January letter to Ridenhour from the area office. Nowever, in a phone conversation between Roger Ridell and the area office later in the month, BIA reportedly told Ridell, "We assumed there was no Alaskan dealer who could handle this type of contract."

Another local firm, Dinyea Corp., the corporation for Stevens Village, also missed out on the bidding for the Nome houses. Referring to competition with a local firm, Ridenhour said, "It's not the fact that you don't get the job, it's that you don't get to compete."

In the second situation, BIA, acting as an agent for several Native regional housing authorities, sent out invitations to bid on 368 housing units. Ridenhour said he received his invitation on the 3rd of February. Bids were due two days later. He said he would have had to fly personally to Juneau to deliver them on time.

Greg Thies, of the Dinyea Corp., said his firm received its invitation in ample time to bid. The Dinyea Corp. has been forced to delay construction of its housing factory because it was not awarded the second contract.

The second contract was again awarded to Niedermeyer-Martin. However, the award was actually made by the housing authorities, not the BIA.

According to Commissioner of Indian Affairs Morris Thompson, speaking at a press conference in Anchorage, the award was made to the lowest of 16 bidders.

Ridenhour asserted that Niedermeyer-Martin bidding on the same house plan, bid \$6,000 more than they bid on the Nome

houses. Area Director Antioquia emphasized that the BIA only provided technical assistance on the second bidding. He said the selection of the Oregon firm was a joint decision of the housing authorities of the Bristol Bay, Calista, Bering Straits and NANA regions.

Ridenhour, citing private information sources, said it appears to him that BIA is "literally taking them (Niedermeyer-Martin) up and down the coast to the corporations."

"What the whole thing boils down to is that the Area BIA office in Juneau appears to be being very selective about whom they award bids to," Ridenhour told the Tundra Times, "From the letters I've seen, there's a lot of misinformation coming out of Juneau to Washington."

Commissioner Thompson said he was confident that BIA regulations had been strictly followed in the bidding procedure and noted that Alaskan and non-Alaskan firms had participated in the bidding.

Thompson, on a week-long swing through Alaska will inspect the completed houses in Nome.

## Pub. Hearings On High Rents

"I have asked that public hearings be held in Fairbanks, Valdez, and Anchorage to determine whether residents feel a need for the imposition of rent controls. Commissioner of Commerce Tony Motley will chair the meetings which will be held in the next two weeks.

"I am concerned about the problems facing the residents of communities impacted by pipeline construction activities. I want to do what is possible to help, but at the same time I do not want to force State decisions on local residents where they are not desired.

"To date, I have received no request for consideration of rent controls from the local governmental leaders of those cities. I am therefore sending letters to them asking they respond with their recommendations.

"Requests for State action have already come from some local residents, from Fairbanks legislators, and I am aware of news reports on the rental situation.

"Commissioner Motley is organizing the public meetings at this time. He will seek public input to determine whether rent controls should be imposed."

## Lael on Board

At a press conference held in his office today, Governor Jay Hammond named five new members to the State's Board of Fish and Game, and reappointed two others.

New members tapped for service were Darrell Famen of Anchorage, a professional taxidermist and registered big game guide, and Nick Gregory of Egegik, Jim Beaton of Juneau, Clint Buckmaster of Sitka, and Nick Szabow of Kodiak, all commercial fishermen.

Wasilla attorney Burton Biss a commercial fisherman, Gordon Jensen of Petersburg were reappointed to the Board.

With the addition of the seven names announced today, the Board returns to full strength with all twelve positions filled.

Governor Hammond earlier reappointed Jim Reardon of Homer and added Sidney Huntington of Galena and Lael Morgan and Anchorage. Two other members, Leo Moses of Chevak and Ivan Thorall of Fairbanks, will continue in service on the Board.

At its last meeting in Ketchikan in December, the Board recessed until appointments could be made to fill the vacancies created by disclosure-related resignations. The Board will now reconvene in Juneau on April 8.

## TT Has Annual Meeting

The Annual stockholders meeting of the Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co. was held March 24, 1975 at the home of Dr. Mildred Matthews. A new Board of Directors of the Tundra Times was elected. Following the Annual meeting the officers were voted on as follows:

President and Chairman of the Board is Howard Rock; Executive Vice President, Chris Anderson; 1st Vice President, Mary Jane Fate; 2nd Vice President, Betty Farni; Treasurer, Jim Immel; Assistant Treasurer, Jimmy Bedford; Secretary, Toni Jones and Assistant Secretary, Daphne Gustafson. Board members: Laura Bergt, Mildred Matthews, Laurie Herman and Ron Crowe. Advisory board members: Arla Anderson, Marge Bauman, Fred Brown, Charlie Cole, Victor Fisher, Gary Harding-Security Chief of Alaska, Eva Heffle, Barry Jackson, Elfrieda Kushida, Karen Perdue, Tommy Richards, Sr., John Sackett, Dave Stein and Ollie Anderson.



## you have a good neighbor at RCA Alascom

To Joan Saunders, "communications" and "community" go hand in hand. As an operator at the Fairbanks Toll Center for RCA Alaska Communications, Inc., Joan sees it that calls are put through. But several traffic communications mean Joan does that little extra to meet customers' communications needs. Like tracking down hard to find numbers. Joan also realizes the worth of activities for young people in a community. That's why she works with a Junior Girl Scout Troop. Joan and the troop made toys to be flown to Nome for Christmas.

They've participated in Fairbanks clean-up projects. Recently, Joan donated time wrapping gifts to raise funds for Girl Scout programs. Joan Saunders dedicates herself to better communications in Alaska, and to a better community. Like more than eleven-hundred other people who work for RCA Alascom.

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