

Senator Bartlett Conducts Senate Hearings on Radiation

WASHINGTON—Ralph Nader, the man who prodded the nation to do something about automobile safety, testified last Monday (May 13) at Senate Commerce Committee hearings on radiation hazards conducted by Sen. E. L. Bartlett, D-Alaska.

The hearings, which will be going into their second week, are on three bills concerned with protecting the public health from hazardous radiation. One bill is sponsored by Bartlett, another is an administration proposal and the third has passed the House of Representatives.

In his opening statement at the hearings, Bartlett said: "We hope to explore some areas which to date have largely been neglected. We will examine the industrial uses of radiation and the special problems presented by such use."

Bartlett described the hearings as efforts "to obtain the information required to produce sound, workable legislation which will protect the public health from hazardous radiation."

Nader, in his appearance before the committee, is expected to urge passage of legislation providing strong measures against unnecessary radiation. This is the second series of hearings to be held on hazardous radiation measures. Senator Bartlett conducted three days of hearings on his hazardous radiation bill last August.

Among the witnesses to testify before Bartlett were Betty Fumess, special assistant to the President

for consumer affairs; Dr. Philip R. Lee, assistant secretary for Health and Scientific Affairs; and James E. Terrill, Jr., director of the National Center for Radiological Health.

The administration spokesmen urged passage of legislation which holds manufacturers responsible for holding down the level of harmful radiation. At later hearings representatives of the medical profession, retailers, labor, manufacturers and the academic community testified.

Dr. Richard H. Chamberlain, representing the American College of Radiology, testified in favor of the creation of national radiation standards. However, he took strong issue with published views of Nader and others that medical and dental x-ray presents a major radiation threat.

"We still have little solid information about the effects of the very low levels of radiation such as those largely under consideration here," Chamberlain said.

Wade Decides

Not To Seek Office

Hugh J. Wade, Solicitor for the Department of Interior in Alaska and former Secretary of State under the Egan Administration will not be a candidate for Congress.

Wade, a highly respected Alaskan has long been regarded as a formidable Democrat for any office he might seek having also been elected Territorial Treasurer prior to statehood. He held the Secretary of State post for two terms.

Wade's decision was revealed by John Rader who has filed as the Democratic candidate for the seat now held by Republican Pollock.

Rader said, "Hugh told me that he would not be a candidate and that he personally supported my candidacy. He also made a much appreciated financial contribution. Rader added: For all of this I am proud and thankful."

Closed Airports Hurt Barrow . . .

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Hopson.

"The economy and the welfare of this community is not geared to survive without air service," Eben Hopson continued. "Twenty years ago perhaps it could have."

Hopson also wrote to Senators E. L. Bartlett and Ernest Gruening in Washington.

"There has been an unwarranted lack of communication between the state and federal government in handling the improvements at both airports at Barrow," he told the senators.

He thought the military airfield was supposed to be completed last fall so that it would be open when the state airfield (Wiley Post) was being improved.

"In any event, both are closed down leaving no air service for some 2,500 people in Barrow and vicinity," said Hopson.

Last week, Harry Wakefield, director of aviation for the state, said the military airfield would be ready for

"We do not know with assurance that their potential harm is very small and, as a matter of fact, this is the reason why their study is so difficult."

A representative of the AFL-CIO gave strong testimony in favor of radiation hazard legislation. However, Andrew J. Biemiller, argued against adoption of the bill which passed the House of Representatives earlier this year.

The House bill "must be drastically overhauled and strengthened in the Senate if it is to be any more than what it is at present—a pious statement of good intentions," Biemiller said.

The hearings are expected to continue through the middle of this week, Bartlett said.

"We are continuing our efforts to obtain the background and information needed to devise a truly effective legislative remedy," Bartlett said. "Our only objective is to produce legislation which will provide for the best possible means of dealing with the present and future hazards of radiation exposure."

Bird Watchers

More than 300 bird watchers from all over the world are expected to fly north to the University of Alaska this spring.

They are members of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) which will conduct its 86th annual meeting on the UA campus June 18-23.

AOU officials selected the campus for its meeting at the invitation of the university and the Fairbanks Bird Club.

Dr. Brina Kessel, dean of the UA College of Biological Sciences and Renewable Resources, is the chairman of the arrangements committee.

The AOU is a professional organization of persons interested in ornithology. Membership includes approximately 3,000 scientists, biologists and amateurs throughout the United States and other countries.

partial service by June 5 and the entire field would be ready by July 5.

He also said the Wiley Post Field would be closed for the summer. He has also made an agreement with Wien Air Alaska to have the field closed for the summer.

Outside of the big village of Barrow, those affected by the closed airports are: Wien / Northern Consolidated Air Alaska, Arctic Research Laboratory, Federal Electric, Vennell Corporation, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the contractors working on the Wiley Post Field.

How did Eben Hopson's letters come out of Barrow?

A five-seater Cessna 185 piloted by Bobby Fisher is now making shuttle trips between Barrow and Fairbanks. The little plane is making the trip of about 475 miles in something like four hours each way.

It was not immediately known where Bobby Fisher was landing and taking off at Barrow.

Minto Suffers Another Flood . . .

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the flood.

At 5:30 p.m. ice started moving again and at the same time water began to come over the banks.

Dogs were turned loose and people began to move about through the village in boats.

At 6:45, flood waters reached the rear of the village. The men began to load the dogs into log rafts. Some people climbed on rooftops.

"There were people on rooftops, not due to flood, only enjoying scenery," said Lawrence Titus, smiling.

Everyone was then loaded into boats and taken to the village airstrip on higher ground.

At 9:10 p.m. the water began to recede.

Camps were set up at the airstrip and around it although some people still stayed at their homes built on higher grounds.

At 10:30, some boats headed back to the village to check the flood conditions.

Pete Hagglund of the Tanana Air Taxi, flew Bergman Silas around and above the village to check the ice. He then took off for Fairbanks.

On Monday May 13 at 5:00 a.m. water dropped to 2½ feet below the bank level.

It was found that some homes had been flooded up to three to four feet of water. "Despite all preparedness,

homes were destroyed to some extent," said Lawrence Titus.

Titus said that someone overheard the conversation between Mrs. Sarah Titus and Mrs. Martha Charlie some time around 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

"Not exciting," they said. Then a little bit later, both women were seen running around getting ready to leave before the sudden flood hit.

Chief Peter John of the village said the ice jam developed two miles below Minto.

"The water came up so fast people had hard time moving dogs and all," said Chief John.

He said the people had been expecting the flood since May 6 but the sudden flood didn't give them much time to get things to eat for their families.

Twenty-one boats were on hand during the flood.

A four-foot high light bridge held firmly despite the ice and debris although most of it was underwater.

The people of Minto are meeting next Friday, May 17, in Fairbanks with government officials to decide whether to move the village to higher grounds. Minto has been flooded almost yearly.

"This flood cinches it for me," said Lawrence Titus this week. "I'm all for the move."

Aleuts and Eskimos . . .

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Aleuts have been known to refuse to be classed along with Eskimos and some have said "We are not like the Eskimos. We are Aleuts."

They have also denied vehemently that they are NOT "Indians" when told they ARE because federal government in dispensing services has treated them as "Indians."

The Aleuts and Eskimos in recent past have been forced to "give" in their individualistic attitudes. This, as mentioned, was brought about by the Justice Department's refusal to recognize them as identifiable Indian groups when the Aleuts made their claims in 1951.

If the Justice Department won its argument before the Indian Claims Commission against the Aleuts and rule that they were not an identifiable Indian group, such a ruling would have far-reaching implications.

In that case, the Eskimos would have wound up as not an identifiable group of Indians either because, anthropologically, they were of the same stock as the Aleuts.

The Aleuts became alarmed as did the Eskimos of The Native Village of Unalakleet. If a ruling developed that they were not "Indians" under the generic term, Indian, there would be danger of losing services normally afforded the Indians of the United States, nor would they have rights to make claims.

ACTION

Late last year, the Aleuts sprang into action with the legal help of their attorneys, Roger Connor of Juneau and Donald H. Green of Washington, D. C.

The attorneys filed a brief on behalf of the Aleuts as petitioners against the United States "of points and authorities in opposition to

defendant's motion for summary judgment and in support of the petitioner's cross-motion for partial summary judgment."

The brief was also served on the Land and Natural Resources Division of the Justice Department on December 15, 1967.

Prior to leaving for Washington, D. C. to argue on behalf of the Aleut people, Roger Connor made the following statement:

"This case has significance because if we lose, it may effect the Eskimos as well as the Aleuts. I also think the position of the Justice Department is untenable as a matter of either sound law or logic and common sense."

Little over two weeks ago on May 2, the Indian Claims Commission declared a decision that the Aleuts and Eskimos were "Indians" and, therefore, can pursue their claims as do other Indians of the United States.

Three dockets were presented before the Indian Claims Commission: Docket No. 285 represented the complaints of the Unalakleet Eskimos; Docket No. 352, The Aleut Community of St. Paul Island; and Docket No. 369, the Aleut Tribe.

Although the law firm of McCutcheon, Groh and Benkert of Anchorage appeared along with John W. Hendrickson, also of Anchorage, on behalf of The Native Village of Unalakleet, no argument was made but the Commission decided to dispose of the case on the same grounds as dockets 352 and 369.

Keith Brown, along with Mr. Assistant Attorney General Clyde O. Martz, counsel for defendant, appeared for the Justice Department but their arguments on all three dockets were overruled by the Commission.

Conference . . .

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conference would explore ways "to see whether we cannot get agreement on a draft that will be reasonably acceptable to all."

The idea was prompted by Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall's recent reversal of his idea that a three-way compromise land bill be drafted.

This was done by Gov. Walter J. Hickel's Native Land Claims Task Force, the State and the Interior Department and the result was the Senate bill S. 2906.

The bill was introduced by request by Sen. Gruening.

Now the Interior Department has drafted a bill which was to have been introduced by Sen. Henry Jackson on April 30 and which contains great many of the proposals of S. 1964, the original Interior bill and which was labeled by the native people as "completely unacceptable."

In calling for the conference, Sen. Gruening said: "In view of Secretary Udall's amazing reversal, I am not too optimistic, but it's worth trying, since no more important issue confronts the people of Alaska today."

Gruening said that his own view would be to endorse S. 2906, with certain technical amendments, "but it is now clear that with the opposition of the Interior Department it would not be possible to get it enacted, and that even if we could get it enacted, the Department would recommend a veto."