

AEC Will Consult Natives If Remote Blast Planned

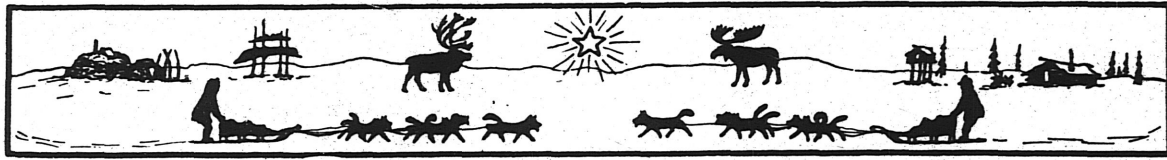
Tundra Times

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Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak



Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

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GOVERNOR'S LANDS SPEECH DRAWS SHARP CRITICISM

AEC To Test Drill North Slope in April

The Atomic Energy Commission's exploration of the North Slope is only a backup for the Amchitka site, and full public discussions will be held before any testing would be started in that area, said an AEC spokesman.

H.G. Vermillion, Public Information Director of the AEC Nevada Operations office, said that the Commission would start drilling a small test hole this April in the Northern foothills of the Brooks Range, about 50 miles southeast of Point Lay.

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HARPOON TOSS--Chick Trainor tries his hand at the harpoon toss, one of several

Alaskan events at the U of A's Winter Carnival this week.

Native Leaders Publicly Oppose Hickel's Stand

Many aspects of Governor Hickel's speech on the Native land claims brought sharp criticism from Native leaders this week. Several publicly opposed certain comments, and Seraphim Stephan, chief of Tyonek, sent a wire to Hickel asking for a public discussion between the Governor and a representative of the Natives.

Although all applauded his statements that the Natives had a right to make the claims and that the claims should be settled quickly, many felt that the speech

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Editorial—

Are Claims Clouding Non-Native Land Titles?

In his speech on Native land claims last Tuesday, one of the first things Governor Walter J. Hickel pointed out was the clouding of titled non-native lands if those lands were located in native claims areas.

The statement smacked of being made to cast a "cloud" over the land ownership by the non-natives. This would have been readily acknowledged by anyone if non-native land owners all had "tentative" titles. Since great many of our non-native friends have patents on their lands, we doubt very much that their patented properties would be affected by native claims. The same is true in the case of those lands the State has withdrawn so far and patented under the provision that the state government has the right to withdraw 103 million acres of the so-called public lands.

The patented lands, whether State or private, are legally recorded and it is very doubtful the native people can do anything about them except obtain compensation from the Federal Government. Furthermore, it seems quite clear that there would not be roadblocks to prevent development of legally patented lands.

Governor Hickel seems to be adding fuel to the negative publicity that was launched by W.C. Arnold in his treaties on native land claims and in which he strongly stated that the claims would seriously retard the development of Alaska. This publicity has been well thought out and skillfully dispensed, so much so, that it is beginning to create a backlash against the native people who, as original inhabitants of Alaska, are experiencing and have experienced for centuries an ominous cloud over their rights to the lands.

Hensley Zeros Discrepancies

"The Native people are not trying to bring the economy to a halt, they are trying to protect their right," said

Representative William Hensley at the Juneau Democratic Club Wednesday. Speaking to a packed house

at the Baranof Hotel in Juneau, Willie traced the history of the Native land problem.

First was the Treaty of 1867, which prohibited natives from citizenship at that time. He quoted the treaty as saying that "laws must be passed later for Native citizenship."

The organic act of 1884 gave Alaska a measure of self-government, Willie said. Indians and others shall not be disturbed from their lands, the terms of ownership were reserved for future legislation. Willie said the "Natives are still waiting."

Noting the General
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Pollock Discloses Major Step Toward Hospital Facilities

WASHINGTON, D.C. —Congressman Howard W. Pollock (R-Alaska) disclosed a major step forward in providing adequate hospital facilities in Western Alaska that will almost triple the available services in the area.

Present plans call for a new Public Health Service 30-bed hospital in the Village of St. Mary's; a 25-bed facility at Unalakleet; and a major expansion of the Bethel Hospital to 100 beds.

Congressman Pollock said he was "highly gratified that the Public Health Service is recognizing the urgent need for these new and improved facilities."

In addition to providing normal hospital services, these new and improved facilities will also offer dental care, individual home visits by Public Health Service nurses, and community health workers and sanitarians who will assist the Villages in all aspects of health and sanitation needs.

The completion of these three major facilities is projected within a period of five

years. The Congressman stated that he intended to press diligently for the earliest possible completion date.

"I am cognizant of the problems facing Alaskans in rural areas who are in need of adequate medical assistance, and I am most encouraged to learn that we have achieved some degree of success," Pollock concluded.

Editorial—

The Main Motivating Reason — Ecology

"'Use and occupancy' has been a standard test in matters like this for some time. What it means, simply, is that a stranger walking over the land in question could see a smokehouse, or a dock piling, or some other indication that the land was in use and occupied," so said Governor Walter J. Hickel in defining the land use generally accepted by non-natives.

The evidences of use of the lands by our native people are a far cry indeed from the idea of Governor Hickel. We can say, unequivocally, that the evidences of

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