



BIA TEACHER ANSWERS CRITIC



THEY'RE OFF!—At the signal given by Gov. Walter J. Hickel, four native leaders are under way on a 200 yard snowshoe race held during the North American Championship Sled Dog Races held last Saturday. From left to right: Ralph Perdue, former president of the Fairbanks Native Association; Emil Netti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives; Don Wright, president of Cook Inlet Native Association; and

Richard Frank, president of Fairbanks Native Association. The winner by a wide margin was Richard Frank, second, Ralph Perdue, third, Emil Netti, and last, Don Wright, who thought he spent most of his time wallowing in the deep snow after he fell several times during the race. Governor Hickel may be challenged on next year's snowshoe race.

—TUNDRA TIMES Photo

BIA Defended After VISTA School Criticism

Mrs. Judith K. Fisher, a Bureau of Indian Affairs teacher at Wainwright on the Arctic coast, has come out in defense of the BIA system of schooling in Alaska in a letter to Tundra Times.

Her letter is also a rebuttal to the letter written by Mrs. Rosaire Kennedy to Senator Robert F. Kennedy in which she charged the present day system of schooling for native children is breaking down the native people's heritages.

Rosaire Kennedy and her husband spent about a year and a half at the village of Noorvik as VISTA Volunteers.

"Undoubtedly I will not be the only BIA employee to write in regard to the article concerning Mrs. Kennedy's letter to Robert Kennedy, Senator from New York, attacking our organization and teachers.

"I was so very appalled by her lack of information and by her generalizations made from one or two circumstances, that I felt it imperative that I, too, make a retort," wrote Mrs. Fisher in her letter to Tundra Times.

She said that she and her husband have lived and taught in Alaska for the BIA for five years in four different schools, including a boarding school.

"I fail to believe that any teacher would teach in BIA schools for five years—or for 40 years—as has one lady, now in Unalakleet, if he did not possess a sincere admiration, respect, and even a love for the native people—young and old alike—and their culture and customs.

"For life is an isolated village in Alaska, even with the relatively modern con-

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Snowshoe Race Challenge for Governor?

"I can do that. I would like to try that some time and I'm in good enough shape to do it. Sure I would."

That was none other than Governor Walter J. Hickel, and what was he talking about? You guessed it—the native leaders snowshoe race that took place at the starting chute of the North

American Championship Sled Dog Races last Saturday afternoon.

The race turned out to be a hilarious event and thoroughly enjoyed by the Fairbanks crowd present.

Winning convincingly over his highly touted rivals was Richard Frank of Minto and Fairbanks who won going away. He is the president of Fairbanks Native Association.

"I told you I'd run circles around those guys and I'm the oldest one of all of them," said Richard Frank happily and with a faint suggestion of a sneer at his rivals.

Running a rather poor second was Ralph "Light-foot" Perdue whose ptarmigan feet at the front end of his snowshoes he trained with and which supposed to make him lightfooted, according to old Indians, apparently did not work for him.

"That Richard Frank had wide snowshoes while I had narrow ones that made me break through the crust while he stayed on top. Beside s

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Hot Lunch for Rural Schools Causes Fast

Sen. Robert R. "Bob" Blodgett, D-Teller, has commanded attention in the press through the years past and he is doing no less this year in the State Legislature.

The latest the Teller Democrat is doing these days is that he is fasting for the kids in rural areas so they can have hot soups for lunch in their schools.

Blodgett is on his fifth day of fasting and he is feeling the pangs of hunger although he is said to be in good spirits.

Food is foremost in his mind of course and strangely enough, he has the most craving for reindeer sausage. He said this craving must be like a pregnant woman who craves for pickles and such.

Sen. Blodgett began his fast when the bill he helped to sponsor, SB260, ran into legislative snags. The bill asks for \$2 million that would

be appropriated to the Department of Education so that department could furnish hot lunches for the children in rural areas.

Blodgett is determined to (Continued on page 7)

Claims Lawyer Hits Lag in Fund Raising

March 13, 1968

AN OPEN LETTER

Gentlemen:

In my opinion, the national drive relating to the Alaska Native Land Claims Compromise Bill has not amounted to a tempest in a teapot. I have heard no word from the Association of American Indians or any national organization. The lawyers have shown no enthusiasm jointly to associate a Washington, D. C., lawyer! There have been no substantial efforts to get a public relations man. And finally, and most importantly, there is a decided lack of funds.

The state effort is not the most important part of our

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Bill Taylor Captures North American Title

In the dogmushing annals of Alaska dogsled racing, history will show that it takes for Alaska racers six years of careful breeding and training of dogs to recapture the championship that has been awarded to an out-of-state dogsled racer for that length of time.

It will also show that it takes a lot of stamina and endurance for both man and dog to turn the trick.

Bill Taylor of Fairbanks recaptured the coveted North American Championship Sled Dog Race title last Saturday from the six-time title holder, Dr. Roland Lombard of Wayland, Mass.

In the 70-mile, three-day, 20-20-30-mile distances respectively, Taylor rolled

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2000 Attend FNA Potlatch In Fairbanks

The native potlatch last Saturday sponsored by Fairbanks Native Association was, as usual, a great success.

This annual event is growing by leaps and bounds and the 2,000 people that crowded into the Monroe High School Auditorium threatened to burst the seams making it likely that some other larger space might be sought for future potlatches.

The notable added interest this year was the presence of Governor Walter J. Hickel who was the first governor

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