

# Indian Affairs Subcommittee Reports Out Claims Bill...

mise among members of the committee. This may mean the claims' bill could become law this year.

Credit for the action of the subcommittee is largely being given to Alaska Congressman Nick Begich, widely acknowledged as the architect of the compromise within that committee.

One prominent oil lobbyist was heard to comment, "It is the best individual achievement I have ever heard of a freshman congressman."

The bill still has to face a difficult time this fall. The House will recess Friday until September 6. The bill has yet to clear the full Interior Com-

mittee and the House Rules Committee which reportedly will not meet until Oct. 1.

The subcommittee will more closely approach the provisions sought by the Alaska Federation of Natives than any other bill proposed before Congress this year with the exception of the AFN bill itself.

The last selection formula was based on the provisions of the administration bill calling for withdrawal of nine townships surrounding each village.

Villagers would be allowed to select initially from three to seven townships on the basis of a graduated formula depending on population.

Up to three townships of

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each village selection may be taken from land which has already been tentatively approved for selection by the State of Alaska.

This lands provision was adopted with the understanding that the State of Alaska would voluntarily relinquish that amount of land from its statehood allocation.

Assuming that selection would be made by a total of 207 Alaska villages the initial Native selection could total approximately 20 million acres.

Anyone currently living in the villages will immediately get title for residential or business purposes. Natives living outside Native villages would receive a

total of 160 acres after demonstrating evidence of use.

Natives living on Indian reservations in Alaska would have the option of receiving title to their reservation. If they chose to do this, however, they will be excluded from the terms of the bill.

Even as the village selection is taking place, the state of Alaska would be allowed to select all of the 103 million acres it is entitled to under the Statehood Act.

The balance of the village selection would be made after the state has concluded its selection which should be 1983 unless an extension is granted. There would be no restrictions on the final Native selection.

The financial portion of the bill is also more liberal than any of the other provisions with the exception of the AFN bill. This will be a total of \$925 million over a 10 year period and be-

cause its over a 10 year period it's substantially greater than either the administration or the Senate bill.

The AFN is withholding reaction until it meets in Bethel next Friday.

Rep. Begich is optimistic about the future of the legislation.

"In my view this action clears the way for passage of a bill by the House this session and promises both an end to the land freeze and a just settlement for the land claims.

"Of course there are still problems to resolve before passage, especially the shortage of time to gain passage of the bill through the Interior and Rules Committees. The hours behind the bill and the Chairman, Mr. Aspinall, as well as Mr. Haley will be strong and welcome allies. Needless to say I am very pleased about this subcommittee action," Begich said.

## BLM Hiring Policy Questioned...

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BLM will advertise for VOLUNTEERS without experience out of Fairbanks and Anchorage."

Ferguson went on to report that Point Hope has some 40 men waiting to be hired and sent signatures of 41 villagers who backed a letter of complaint from the Point Hope for Equal Opportunity to Kikiktagruk Area Community Development Corp. requesting clarification on the problem.

The legislator also noted 17 out-of-work firefighters at Wainwright, 25 at Buckland, 40 in Kotzebue, 20 at Kivalina, 15 at Deering, 15 at Noatak, 15 in Shungnak, 8 in Kobuk and some in Barrow.

"The BLM earlier this year notified a few of the villages that they would be trained but never got around to it. BLM will have seemingly good statistics but see what the unemployed feel about these statistics," he said.

"Our first job is to put out fires," defends Bob Krumm, director of BLM in Fairbanks. "We have 17 trained village crews. They take 24 hours training over three years and

and eight hours every other year. We don't offer anything in return other than a promise to put them in the first line of attack."

Villages with trained crews include Allakaket, Ft. Yukon, Kiana, Minto, Noorvik, Northway, Selowik, Tanacross, Tanana, Tetlin, Venetie and Huslia. There are two crews in the villages of Ft. Yukon, Noorvik, Selowik, Tanacross and Tanana, he added.

"We've had probably 10 letters from villages that want to be trained but we've decided we have as many as we are able to maintain. We've just added a training and safety officer to our staff so we may be able to increase our commitment."

He said BLM makes it a policy not to take a crew that lives nearest the fire.

"We don't want to be patsy to a village that wants some money enough to start a fire. In a heavy fire season some of the Fairbanksers say, 'Boy those Natives are really active,' but actually it's the homesteaders and the people using the recreation areas who start most of

the fires."

If a trained crew is not available, BLM hires from villages where they know men are available. Listed on this summer's fire call roster are Anaktuvuk Pass, Galena, Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk, Stevens Village, Beaver, Bethel, Unalakleet, St. Michaels, Nicholi, Kotzebue, Mentasta, Koyukuk, Hughes, Holy Cross, Nulato, Kalskag, St. Mary's, Stebbins, Chalkyitsik, Eagle, Delta, Fairbanks, Anchorage and Kaltag.

Krumm readily admits that the bureau favors crews it believes to be most efficient. He also said some fires are allowed to burn when crews cannot be hired to man them. This was the case on the Seward Peninsula this summer.

"It wasn't possible to get to that fire when it started. We took action on the resource areas of greatest value...like the winter caribou area. But by the time we got to the bulk of it, it covered 70,000 acres, too big to man. We had to use retardant bombers.

"We get a lot of political pressure to man a fire like that but it's pretty much like putting money down a rat hole."

As for areas like Point Hope... "It's just too far away, 150 or 200 miles before you get into the Kobuk."

For firefighters who wish to be assured steady work in season Krumm suggests application for the 150 to 200 full time jobs they have.

"These are filled pretty much by college students and they could be done just as well or better by villagers. These jobs run from mid-April through mid-August. We have stations in the Tanana Delta, Fairbanks, Galena, Ft. Yukon, Bettles. The jobs are for heli-tack crews, smoke jumpers and pumpers."

Applicants must fill out form 171 with the BLM office. These can often be obtained through the post office. Krumm notes that sometimes qualified natives do not get these jobs because hiring is competitive and they have not filled out forms completely or correctly.

In some cases, where the National Guard or some other agency has helped with the filing, this problem is eliminated.

In past years Alaskans and veterans have received preference in hiring but Krumm just got a memo saying the roster will now be prepared in Portland, Oregon and he's not sure whether Alaskans will be given preference or not.

It worries him.

"We've learned by long experience that generally speaking villagers are better firefighters. They seem to be more psychologically and physically adapted to it. And they're easier to supervise in a large group."

## Eskimo Olympics...

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train for the sport because it usually takes your hands a couple of weeks to heal after a few rounds. He's usually won the contests he's entered but this was his first Olympics match.

Morgan Sakeagak of Barrow won the Body Weight contest by carrying four men totaling 621 pounds for 38 feet five inches. That was more weight but a shorter distance than the standing record. Second in the contest was Charlie Kasook of Inuvik carrying 621 pounds 28 feet and one half inch.

The two foot high kick proved a disappointment because Canadian champ, Billy Gordon, suffered a strained muscle and was not able to defend his 7 foot 6 inch record from the Northern Games.

It was a good show, none the less, with Joe Kasak of Barrow taking first with a 6 foot 6 inch kick. He has won that event at least twice before.

The one foot high kick, while not a record breaker, proved one of the most exciting competitions. Pat and Glen Tingmiak, brothers from Inuvik, tied at 7 feet 4 inches and Pat broke the deadlock by kicking 7 feet 6 inches. He said it was a full 6 inches over anything he had ever jumped before and he seemed as surprised as everyone else.

A favorite of the crowd in that one was Roger Kuniak of Nome. The 5 foot 2 inch athlete jumped two feet over his own height before going out in the final rounds.

Joe Kaleak of Barrow won the Ear Pulling Contest. Cliff Topkok of Teller stood all challengers on the stick pull and went on to defeat last year's champ, Gareth Wright.

Billy Killbear of Barrow won the Mukluk Eating Contest in a 11 second gulp. The Women's Blanket Toss went again to Jenny Felder of Barrow with Eva Kavala of Kotzebue placing second. Reggie Jule of Kotzebue won first place in the Men's Blanket Toss followed by Johnny Brower.

As usual Rhoda Nageak won first place in the Seal Skinning contest although she did not break her own record of 57 seconds set in 1966. This year she took 1 minute 23 seconds, maybe because she talked to the seal as she worked.

The Baby Contest was won by Celia Peterson, an Athabaskan born in Nenana. Second was Victoria Pushruk of King Island. Announcer English delighted the audience by making the prize presentation directly to the

babies and inviting them back to participate in the Miss Eskimo Olympics contest in a few years.

Rhoda Nageak of Barrow placed first in the Parka Contest and Grace Lucier of Wales came in second.

Inuvik introduced a tough new game called the Stick Bend which was taken by Tommy Smith of that area. He had plenty of Alaskan competition, however, and they vow next year they'll beat him.

The Inuvik visitors also took home first prize in the Eskimo Dance competition after tying with the King Islanders. The "dance off" was a credit to both villages and a hard decision.

Minto, with Mathew Titus in the lead, won the Indian Dance competition followed by Nenana and Tanacross which performed only one night.

Miss Mary Keller, a 17-year-old high school student from Nome won the Miss Eskimo Olympics title for the Arctic Native Brotherhood with a flashing set of dimples and considerable poise. This, too, was a hard decision. Runner up was Kathy Itta of Barrow, Miss Mt. Edgecumbe. Miss Bethel, Lillian Venes, was second runner-up and Johanna Harper, Miss Fairbanks Native Assn., was voted Miss Congeniality.

Judges for the sports events were Morris Thompson, area director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; Harry Carter, director of Alaska Federation of Natives; Maury Smith, KFAR newsmen; Howard Rock, editor of the Tundra Times; Mrs. Ollie Anderson of Fairbanks; Peter Three Stars, BIA Tribal operations; Louis Strutz, athletic commissioner for Alaska, and the Rev. Walter Soboleff of Southeastern.

Queen contestant judges were Fairbanks Mayor Julian Rice, Dr. Eugene Wescott, Mrs. Lois James, Mrs. Mable Hopson and Andrew Kleinfeld.

Inadvertently participating in the show each night was "Shorty" Wilcox, a camera man who was trying to film the Olympics for American Broadcasting Company's "Wide World of Sports."

Shorty stands 7 feet 1 inch, favors bright trousers and carries a blinding set of lights. Competitors, realizing that his filming could do to spread Olympics fame, were patient to the point they almost couldn't see their high kick goal. A few tourists objected loudly but Shorty managed to work above the roar.

We hope he'll come back next year and just enjoy the show.

## Amchitka Victim...

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differences in the Aleut culture," observes Prof. John Cook who headed the expedition. "The house is bigger than most Eskimo houses. We found marked difference in the tool types, too. But we didn't excavate enough to know whether this is typical of the area."

"We located several other houses. One for sure and maybe three more," notes Jim Dixon, a graduate student who worked on the project. "We'd have done a lot more excavation if we'd had a chance."

The only reason they were allowed to dig in the first place was a federal antiquity law which states archaeological sites cannot be destroyed or disturbed. Because of it, the island was surveyed two years ago and about 80 potential digs were located.

Then Archaeological Research, Inc., a California firm, was hired to work on six sites last year. They collected a lot of material but discovered no houses.

The University got into the act when Holmes and Narver Construction discovered an old midden (an archaeologist's term for garbage dump) and called The Archaeological Department to have a look.

Cook, Dixon and Charles Holmes, another grad student, began by digging a 22 meter trench which, by luck, cut right across the old subterranean house. Cook had to go back to Fairbanks after a week's work but Dixon and Holmes stayed on with a three man crew wor-

king from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day.

They mapped the house so they will be able to reconstruct it on paper and also carefully excavated its furnishings and all bone in the area so the diet of its occupants can be discovered.

"We have any items we can't identify," Cook admitted. "It's particularly hard when you're working in an area where there is so little historical background."

"We feel really discouraged we couldn't get enough to make comparisons, or at least a good representative collection...not even enough to satisfy our curiosity," Dixon laments.

The site, on the very edge of a cliff, is naturally edging toward the sea and will almost certainly go under if the blast occurs.

"It's so hard to buck the government. They'll just come back with the rational that there are a number of sites on the island and archaeology won't be dead on the island if this site is lost," Cook considers.

"But the material won't be any good to us in pieces down on the beach. We need to see the positions of everything and their relationship to other items in the settlement."

If the blast does not occur, they will most certainly go back to the site for extended digging. And if the test is run they'll go back too. "Just for a day to see what's left."

That won't be houses on the hill, they're fairly sure. In fact the hill may also be missing after the megatron blast goes off.