

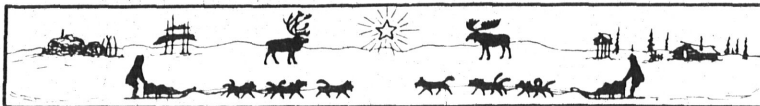
Tundra Times

25c

Inupiat Pitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktaug The Aleuts Speak



Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

Vol. 10, No. 2

Wednesday, January 10, 1973

Fairbanks, Alaska

ATTORNEYS' FEES RAISE BROWS

Emil Notti Enters Race for Begich's Seat

Emil Notti, Democratic State Central Committee chairman, formally announced Friday his candidacy for nomination for the special U.S. House Race, March 6. The Democratic convention to choose a candidate is set for this Saturday in Anchorage.

Notti, who met with about 30 delegates Friday night, spoke on his plans and goals for the future. And he flew into Fairbanks last Saturday to do the same thing. Many of the delegates he addressed were Natives and are expected to throw their support behind him.

"If it was an election, I think I could expect a great deal of backing. Because it's a convention, it's harder," Notti said Saturday concerning possible support from Natives.

He explained that many people are already committed to either Chaney Croft or Pegge Begich, the other two Democratic nominees.

But he spoke with some confidence about his chances, especially if the convention lasts for any length of time.

"The longer the vote goes, the longer it takes to select a nominee, the better chance I'll have," he said.

Besides simply giving him more time to talk to the delegates, any delay would get him past the first ballots, some of which are committed to Mrs. Begich and Croft.

"I am devoting full time to getting around where I have to get to," he said.

He added that he wasn't quite sure where that would involve, but mentioned the possibility of a live TV debate in Anchorage between himself

(Continued on page 6)

Hearings on D-2 Lands— Chiefs: Needed Throughout State

Due to the increasing concern of all citizens, the Board of Directors of Tanana Chiefs Conference are strongly recommending that all the federal agencies that are studying the proposing classifications on D-2 lands hold local hearings throughout the state. The board took this formal action at their Tok meeting recently.

"We have five major federal agencies that are now in the process of making decisions and proposals as how to utilize the lands that are now in a D-2 classification," stated John Sackett, president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

In contacting the agencies concerned, Sackett wrote that the "board feels strongly that



ATTLA AND FRIEND — George Atlla, champion dog musher, hooks one of his dogs up for a practice run. Atlla will enter the 1,000-mile Iditarod Trail race between Anchorage and Nome. The dog is unidentified. Photo by JOYCE ZIMMERSCHIED

Mushing Champion George Atlla

By JOYCE ZIMMERSCHIED

Take the longest and richest run in the history of dog racing. Add a man who has won so many races that, when he recently moved to Fairbanks, he could only bring last winter's trophies. Mix well, and you have a combination that's going to be hard to beat.

The race is the proposed Iditarod Trail competition, 1,000 miles of hills, forests and tundra stretched out between Anchorage and Nome. The man is George Atlla, winner of three North American and four World championships. And the re-

sults should be interesting.

Atlla, who has raced professionally since 1958 and for years before that in his home village of Huslia, is being sponsored by British Petroleum. The company is also chipping in \$1,000 of the planned \$50,000 purse. The rest of the money will come from other donations and there is a report that ABC's Wide

(Continued on page 6)

Claims Layers Asking \$5.1 Million Additional

Alaska's Native Claims Act, passed last year, set a \$2 million ceiling on payments to the lawyers involved. Or so everyone thought. But now, some of the lawyers are saying there should be no limit to how much they should get.

The difficulty comes from a small but controversial section of the Act, concerning attorneys' and consultants' fees. It says, apparently clearly enough, "The amounts allowed for services rendered shall not exceed in the aggregate \$2 million, of which not more than \$100,000 shall be available for the payment of consultants' fees."

However, Congress felt that this amount would not cover the expenses that some of the law firms run up. So it provided a means by which the court of claims commissioner could deal with cost overruns.

The Congressional law states "If the approved claims exceed the aggregate amounts allowable, the chief commissioner shall authorize payment of the claims on a pro rata (proportional) basis."

So now the bills for the land claims settlement are coming in, and the lawyers are asking for more than the specified \$2 million. About \$5.1 million more. And some of them would be quite willing to take as much as they could get.

"I believe they're incorrect and the court of claims will prove them so," said John Sackett, president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference. The TCC is

one of the largest of the 12 corporations in terms of land mass.

The commissioner's job is defined by the Act as weeding out invalid claims for fees and expenses. He must then determine what portions of the money should go to which lawyers. Each one would then get his piece of the \$2 million pie.

But some Seattle lawyers aren't satisfied with the arrangement. Citing the "pro rata basis" wording of the law, they claim, "if the award exceeds \$2 million, the distribution is to be made proportionately and the chief commissioner clearly is not limited to the \$2 million withheld."

One such is Frederick Paul, the Seattle lawyer who worked with the Arctic Slope Native Association. Paul, a Tlingit Indian, is asking, along with his law firm, for \$3.5 million in legal fees. And they do not approve of limiting the lawyers' payments.

"In fixing fees, many, many items go into what is fair to the lawyers and fair to the client," Paul said Monday morning. The factors involved are varied, as he pointed out.

"In our particular situation," he continued, "we have to consider who would be competitors for the land." Listing the State of Alaska, the BLM and the oil companies as three top contenders, he said, "They have unlimited expense accounts,

(Continued on page 6)

Rep. Nick Begich Eulogized--

Gifted Young Man Who Achieved More in 20 Years

By MARGIE BAUMAN

ANCHORAGE — U.S. Rep. Nick Begich, D-Alaska, was eulogized Sunday as a "restless, gifted young man" who achieved more in 20 years than some do in twice that time.

"Nick Begich was something special — a young man in a hurry whose time ran out too soon," said his friend and colleague U.S. Rep. John A. Blatnik, D-Minn. "He left us with much of his promise still unrealized."

Blatnik was one of several prominent national and state political dignitaries who took part in the memorial tribute to Begich at East Anchorage High School. Alaska's lone member of the U.S. House of Representatives disappeared Oct. 16 en route from Anchorage to Juneau with U.S. House Majority Leader Hale Boggs, D-La., and two others. The plane was



NICK BEGICH

never found.

Begich's wife, Pegge, and their children and Mrs. Hale Boggs were among the hundreds of persons in the high

school auditorium as Begich was cited for his work for Alaska, especially the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for his devotion to his family.

Mrs. William Egan, wife of the governor, Rita Gravel, wife of U.S. Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska and U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens also attended.

Messages of tribute were also carried from Washington, D.C. for Rep. Thomas "Tip" O'Neal, Majority Leader of Congress and Speaker of the House Carl Albert. Former Congressman Wayne Aspinall of Colorado delivered his personal-ly.

"He gave so much in such a short time for all of us," Aspinall said. "He gained his place very quickly among his colleagues."

"My life was enriched by his association with the Committee (on Interior and Insular

(Continued on page 6)