



PRUDHOE WORKHORSE—The Sikorsky S-64 Helicopter, appropriately nicknamed the "Sky Crane," is widely used in petroleum activity on the North Slope. Entire drilling complexes are transported across the tundra by the craft, specifically designed to carry massive loads. This Sky Crane is dropping a platform at Atlantic Richfield's S.E. Eileen State No. 1 drilling site. The helicopter requires a crew of two pilots and a winch operator. Oil company officials admit its cost of operation is high, reportedly over \$2000 per hour, yet it has proved invaluable in enhancing mobility. The use of the Sky Crane has proven less costly to Atlantic Richfield than the extensive use of tracked vehicles or the development of massive land transportation, which also may inflict irreparable damage to North Slope ecology.

—THOMAS RICHARDS, JR. Photograph

FNA Passes Resolution

After noting the pronounced lack of native participation in the 20th Annual Alaska Science Conference, the Fairbanks Native Association passed a resolution this week protesting the freeze-out.

The conference had such panels as, "The Condition of Alaskan

Natives Today." The only native who participated was John Borbridge, president of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians.

The resolution reads as follows:

"Be it resolved that the Fairbanks Native Association believes that the inclusion of only one Indian on the panels at the science conference, now in progress at the University of Alaska, is a re-run of nearly all conferences dealing with native problems.

"Once again the experts believe that they have studied the problems long enough, and are versed on the subject that there is no need to hear from the

people directly affected.

"It is a matter of public record that there are many qualified natives in our state who would have contributed greatly to the conference had they been invited to participate in this conference.

"We the Fairbanks Native Association would like to see an end to this type of short-sighted thinking and planning in the future."

During the meeting of the FNA members Tuesday evening, the group elected Sam Kito as president of FNA. Eleanor Ouzt was elected secretary and Emma Widmark made corresponding secretary. Marcello Quinto was installed as a board member.

Education, Retaining Culture . . .

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laska in Fairbanks said the meeting was a landmark in northern education.

"There was an international conference to consider problems of polar bears, but this is the first time the world's specialists on the north have gathered to consider the education problems of the peoples of the north."

Darnell emphasized that the purpose of the conference was to "inventory" the education programs now existing in the arctic and subarctic regions of the world and to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge among those persons responsible for the programs.

"This was not intended to be an action conference," he said. "Our intent was simply to bring together education administrators, teachers, and specialists from the behavioral and social sciences who are involved with the far north.

"Now that we have met, the conference may prove one springboard for solving the complex problems of education for minority peoples in the northern regions of the world."

Participants at the meeting came from the circumpolar nations of Canada, Denmark (for Greenland), Finland, Norway, Sweden, U.S. (for Alaska), and U.S.S.R.

Few Indians or Eskimos at-

tended, but those who did strongly expressed views that any future conferences on education in the north should involve a majority of participants who are indigenous to the north.

Asked why only a handful of natives of the north were invited to the meeting, conference officials explained that participants had been selected on the basis of two criteria:

—Recognized expertise on cross-cultural education in the north.

—Current commitment to programs in the north.

The fact is that at present few indigenous peoples of the arctic and subarctic actually participate in the formulation and administration of their education programs. Traditionally, they have been on the receiving end only—a situation they generally dislike and against which they have become increasingly vocal.

Most conference participants seemed to be in agreement with complaints registered by Indians and Eskimos. Dr. Norman A. Chance, a noted anthropologist who served six years at McGill University and recently joined the faculty of the University of Connecticut, expressed a popular view in a paper he delivered to the conference.

According to Dr. Chance,

"The most ideally conceived and implemented program of education for native northerners is a program that involves native northerners in the design planning and execution.

"If those of us in education cannot revise our assumptions about the importance of native involvement in northern educational planning, we can hardly expect other less sensitive economic and social institutions to change their approach."

In his recommendations for the natives of Alaska and Canada, Dr. Chance indicated a preference for real rather than "advisory" native representation on school boards, the teaching of primary grades in the native language, the development of more effective adult education programs, and other measures designed to assist the native to synthesize his involvement in two worlds.

It may be several months before the effect of this conference is truly known, but most evidence points toward benefits for natives of the north in all lands.

The conference was jointly sponsored by the University of Alaska at Fairbanks and the Arctic Institute of North America with headquarters in Montreal. It was funded in large part by the Ford Foundation.

AEC Invites Newsmen

The Atomic Energy Commission has extended invitations to State of Alaska officials, sportsmen, conservationists and other interested groups to visit Amchitka Island in the Aleutians on Saturday, September 13, 1969. The total number of persons that could make the trip may be as many as 80.

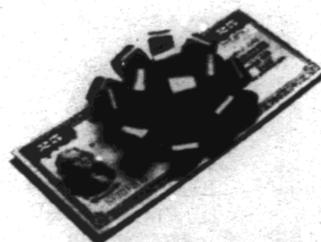
The trip will be made on a Reeve Aleutian aircraft chartered by the AEC and will depart from Anchorage at 7:30 a.m., returning about 8:30 p.m.

The visiting group will be able to spend about five hours on Amchitka where they will be given a tour of the southern portion of the island, including the location of a planned underground nuclear detonation and a briefing on the AEC's activities there.

Newsmen who wish to accompany the group should contact the AEC Alaskan Office of

Information at 2550 Spennard Road, Anchorage. The telephone number is 272-4585.

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