



Integrity, Pride in Heritage, Progress

AFN, Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

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Anchorage, Alaska

THOMPSON TO SPEAK AT AFN CONVENTION

Jackson and Alcoholism—

Subject Close to the Heart

By GORDON JACKSON
Alcoholism is a subject that always interested me and wanted to do something about it for years. I suppose interest and desire to do something about it came from the fact that my mother was an alcoholic and died an alcoholic.

She died several years ago and it hurt everyone of us in the family considerably. Following her death I decided to analyze why she started drinking. It didn't take long.

Let's look for a moment at a typical village in rural Alaska and you'll discover my analysis;

- culture devastated
- lack adequate recreational facilities
- lack adequate medical facilities
- lack adequate transportation and communication
- and many, many others

This situation we have in rural Alaska leads to a very intoxicating and explosive situation.

What do the people do? Given the lack of recreational facilities, education and the effects of alcohol, social life, and others, leads you to the conclusion that alcohol is the only form of social life in many villages.

The children watch the parents and through the process of

identification, they can hardly wait to drink to become part of that social life in the village and the results are devastating.

Much of this can be eliminated or alleviated through an early education on the effects of alcoholism, community halls and establishment of a good recreational program.

Along with these suggested activities, I believe much of the problems such as alcoholism throughout the State can be eliminated or alleviated through adequate planning and implementation.

I believe the State with its newly discovered financial resources has a unique opportunity to take a hard look at itself and ask itself and its people — just what kind of State do we want to have one year from now, 5 years from now, 10 years from now?

Do we want a mirror image of other States or will we be innovative and do it differently and plan and implement instead of traditionally reacting?

Let's take a look at two areas in addition to alcoholism that would benefit from this planning and implementation.

First, education in the unorganized borough. Traditionally education in other States are based on the principles of

democracy. Not so here in the State of Alaska.

The delivery of educational services is through three separate agencies — State Department of Education, State Operated Schools, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The only true form of local control is through the 29 municipalities with this power. Others, boards are appointed or advisory.

We had a conference last summer to address this problem and a lot of doors were open. But what is the State's plan to bring the delivery system under one agency?

Second, Telecommunications. We've got the technological capability to bring communications to every village within the State of Alaska. This would save hundreds, perhaps thousands of lives in rural Alaska. But where is the plan indicating there will be an adequate system in every village and will be done soon?

These are only a couple of examples. Once again, I repeat "What kind of a State do you want?"

In closing, I would like to state that I personally believe that our Human Resources are our most valuable renewable resource and utilizing the financial resources made possible by oil and the construction of the Trans Alaska Pipeline, a non-renewable resource, we have a unique opportunity to plan and implement an overall program that will make the State of Alaska responsive to our needs and a model we all can be proud of.

Thank you.

Conclusion of—

23 RECOMMENDATIONS

For determining whether land is mineral, it is necessary that known conditions are such as reasonably to engender the belief that the land contains mineral of such quality and in such quantity as to render its extraction profitable and justify expenditures to that end. Such belief may be predicated upon geological conditions, discoveries of minerals in adjacent lands, and other observable external conditions which prudent and experienced men are accustomed to act.

We realize that sand and gravel are one of your main concerns. Therefore we will explain this in more detail. Sand and gravel are minerals, and the same basic test is used in determining mineral character where sand and gravel exist as where other minerals exist. The following are some of the criteria considered in applying the mineral test to sand and gravel. Known conditions must be the kind that would lead a miner to believe that the sand and gravel exist in such amounts and in such conditions that mining the sand and gravel could be undertaken at a profit. Where profitable mining would not exist there would be no justification in making any expenditures to undertake mining the sand and gravel. In determining if mining the sand and gravel would be profitable, many things must be

considered. These considerations include: (1) Are the sand and gravel available on the surface so that they can be extracted without removal of extensive overburden? (2) Are the amounts of sand and gravel large enough that a miner would be justified in moving heavy equipment into the area for the period of extraction?

(3) Are sand and gravel so common in the area that there would be no reasonable basis for thinking that the sand and gravel could be marketed? (4) Is there reasonably good access to the deposits? (5) If there is no market for the deposits in the immediate neighborhood, is there good transportation to carry the products to areas where they would be used and could such transportation be undertaken at a profit?

In applying the mineral test to Native allotments, only the aliquot portions found to be mineral in character would be deducted from the total acreage applied for in the original application.

The same test is applied for sand and gravel as for any other minerals. Making a mineral determination requires the best judgment of a mineral examiner after gathering and considering all observable data and record information available.

The allotment field examiners have been made more fully

BIA Commissioner Commits Himself

Morris (Morrie) Thompson, Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and an Alaskan Native, has verbally committed himself to speak at the AFN, Inc. annual convention.

Morrie is pleased to be returning to Alaska, where he will attend the convention and visit friends from his home state.

The Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. is holding its annual convention this year on October 24, 25, and 26, 1974, at the Captain Cook Hotel.

The theme for the convention this year will be centered around "land" and several of our speakers will be expressing their views on the topic.

A special talk by Rogers C. B. Morton on "Status of Alaska Native Lands" is tentatively scheduled — along with a land panel, made up of the AFN, Inc. Board of Directors.

The convention is off to a good start this year and we expect several hundred delegates to be participating.

Any questions concerning the convention or the agenda should be addressed to Donna Christie, Convention Coordinator, at the AFN, Inc. offices, 1675 "C" Street, Anchorage, Alaska.

September 26—

Next Board Meeting

The next AFN, Inc. Board meeting will be held in Anchorage on Thursday, September 26th in the AFN, Inc. Conference Room. Some of the items to be included on the agenda are: Payment from the Alaska Native Fund, Legislation on Trust Lands — Section 14-C, Excess in Surplus Lands, and Stan Howitt of the State of Alaska Consumer Protection Center will be a guest at this meeting.

Included in President Lang's busy schedule of meetings and travel was a trip to Washington, D. C. He met with BIA Commissioner Morris Thompson concerning the roll and the next payment from the Alaska Native Fund.

He also visited with Under-Secretary John Whittaker about some of the problems we've been encountering re: village land selection problems without standards for easements or the question of navigability. Under-Secretary Whittaker will be in Anchorage and will meet with Rogers on September 24th.

A new face in the Land Claims Department is that of Dorothy Larson, who is the new Executive Assistant to the President. She replaces Sylvia Carlson.

Dorothy is originally from Dillingham but now makes Anchorage her home with her husband Carl and their five children. She serves on the Board of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation.

195 B-B Instructors Aid 3,400 Alaska Students

Approximately 3,400 students in Alaska are presently obtaining formal education from knowledge based on the observations and accumulated body of knowledge from 195 staff employed as bilingual-bicultural instructors.

This effort is made possible through bilingual programs established in the following Alaska Native languages:

Tanana, Kutchin, Tanaina, Koyakon, AHTNA-Athapaskan, Sugcestun Aleut, Haida, Tlingit, Inupiaq/Yupik Eskimo by a joint effort of (the community)

aware of the criteria for determining mineral lands.

23. An allotment application shall not be rejected because of a discrepancy in map plotting and actual location of use.

Allotment applications will not be rejected because an application has erroneously plotted his allotment on the maps submitted.

Sincerely yours,
Royston C. Hughes

Assistant Secretary of the Interior

and the AFN/JOM Program.

These programs seek fluency and literacy in both languages clearly as one of language Maintenance together with cultural maintenance.

Bilingual education may be defined quite simply as that form of instruction which uses both the Alaska Native Language and English as the media of instruction.

Considerable improvement in school effectiveness is prevalent by changing the attitude of teachers towards the Sugcestun Aleut, Athapaskan, Eskimo, Haida, and Tlingit languages in the Alaskan rural educational system.

The AFN/JOM Program is seeing that the teaching of standard English should not have the purpose of "stamping out" the Alaskan Native Languages. The recognition of the Alaskan Native Languages in 50 rural communities schools will not stigmatize the use of the Native Language.

English is available alongside the Alaskan Native languages. Traditional, cultural, and linguistic imperialism that has been

self-defeating for acculturation in more divergent elements is recognized.

In the United States educational institutions our nation has been previously prevented from appreciating the true richness of its diverse heritage.

This effort is to project their way of life from being eradicated by their involvement which shows that such programs can be performed economically and successfully in stabilizing the Alaskan society at large.

What must be done by the parents, community leaders, administrators, is to convince the teachers that such an alternative to incorporate the Alaskan Native Languages hold promise for the acquisition of reading skills.

To deny its experimentation may be to deny the child what should rightfully be viz: the ability to read.

These programs are designed to up-date past practices which stigmatized the use of the Alaskan Native language and cultural diversity in the Alaskan classroom.