

# State Land Bill . . .

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ceived by the Land Task Force in the original version of the bill that would be given the native people from the state selected lands and submerged lands not yet selected.

In Gov. Walter J. Hickel's version of the bill he sent down to the House, the 5 per cent would be on federal leaseholdings and submerged lands excluding the 18 million acres the state has already selected.

In his testimony, Atty. Gen. Edgar Boyko said the royalties would include Cook Inlet and Swanson River oil fields. Strandberg is said to be unhappy about this and the representatives have not appeared to like it either. They indicated that although it looked generous on the part of the governor, they have preference for future development of native areas.

The bill, as it stands now, any state royalty hinges on the lifting of the land freeze by Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall in six months. Some testimony indicated that this would be used as a persuader to force the lifting of the freeze by Udall.

Barry Jackson, attorney for Fairbanks Native Association, does not agree that it would work this way and wants to amend the bill to grant a time extension by request of the governor if he sees fit.

This has worried Ted Stevens also but he said this week he would go along with Jackson's amendment.

Don Wright, president of the Cook Inlet Native Association who has gone to Washington and had talks with Secretary Udall and Vice President Hubert Humphrey and other government officials, that the federal policy now is heading toward letting the native people take the lead by being active and dealing directly with the state.

Wright said that if the state and the native people can come to an agreement, Udall would lift the freeze because there would no longer be any disagreement.

## Cuts Off Funds

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income families that the legislature intended to assist with food stamps."

Alaska began participating in the food stamp program in December 1965 with a small pilot project in the Nome-Teller-Brevig Mission area.

By late fall it was considered such a success that statewide interest developed.

At that time the state Division of Public Welfare approached the U. S. Department of Agriculture about expanding the program.

Hickel said the department approved the request pending an appropriation from the legislature to administer the program.

"Now the division will receive assistance during the current fiscal year to qualify persons as being eligible to buy food stamps," the Governor said, "however, the stamps cannot be used until July 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year.

"This is a rough blow for rural Alaska."

# BLODGETT EYES U.S. SENATE

State Sen. Robert R. "Bob" Blodgett, D-Teller, has formally announced his candidacy against incumbent Sen. Ernest Gruening who has served in the U.S. Senate since statehood.

Blodgett is challenging Gruening in the August 27 primary election.

The Teller Democrat has served in the state legislature since statehood as a State Representative until 1964 and thereafter as a senator.

In 1966 election Blodgett defeated another longtime Democrat in the legislature, Sen. Eben Hopson of Barrow in the primary when the two legislators battled for one seat imposed by reapportionment that combined their two districts.

Sen. Blodgett cited the following as his reason for

opposing Sen. Gruening:

—Gruening has failed to devote his attentions to the domestic problems of the people of Alaska.

—That many people know that Gruening is 82 years old and too old to carry on for leadership for government and business that should be handled by younger more energetic people.

—That great numbers of Democrats, independents and Republicans alike are dis-

pleased with Gruening's position on Vietnam.

—That Gruening has failed to bring housing for the rural areas of Alaska.

"Unfortunately," Blodgett said in his announcement, "Sen. Gruening has concentrated on international issues instead of our domestic problems on the Washington level. Alaska has huge domestic needs and goals—more than any other state."

## Seeks Solution . . .

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it from generation to generation. These same people realized that things cannot be as they once were; they had only the future to look forward to.

Sincerely,  
C. Y.

University of Alaska

## Seeks Legal Equality for Canadian Natives . . .

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traffic, river and lake barges, and air service.

Along with the feverish activity, the town began to have legal difficulties concerning its citizens most of which are Indians. These led to allegations published by the newspaper, Tapwe.

"Man is a political animal," Morrow continued in his report to the Canadian government, "so in this sense and with no further apology, as Commissioner I shall attempt to express a few thoughts and make some recommendations under this heading.

"It should first be made very clear that I am not trying to in any way say that I have all the answers or that I am right in every respect. "But it is hoped that what I say here may help to point the way for further and better efforts at finding a solution or cure..."

He said that if solutions are not found quickly, next ten years will see a complete generation "of as yet unsophisticated young Indians and Eskimos, now eagerly attending government schools, pass through the courts of the Territories. This result surely must be avoided at all costs."

In his writings in the Tapwe, Donald Taylor inferred that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were showing preferential tendencies toward certain Justices of the Peace who the RCMP consider would more likely to convict and give tough fines and sentences.

Hay River had three Justices of the Peace, Norman McCowan, a school principal; Donald Stewart, mayor of Hay River now Territorial Councillor; and Rudolph Steiner, a local contractor.

Of the three justices, Rudolph Steiner carried great many of the case loads and the Hay River citizens thought he was in "cahoots with the police."

In Hay River, as elsewhere in the Northwest Territories Justices of the Peace are paid a percentage of the money realized from fines.

"This system is barbaric and hardly needs this Commissioner's remarks that it is to be totally condemned," said Morrow in his recommendations.

Although Morrow praised Steiner for his exceptional workload, he subsequently recommended that Steiner not

be retained as the Hay River Justice of the Peace.

He also recommended that workloads be rotated among the Justice of the Peace courts; that regular times and regular days be designated for court sessions, which was not done in Hay River; that courts be conducted open to the public and away from police detachments.

The editor of Tapwe indicated in his writings that the Indians may have been discriminated against and suggested that Indians and Metis usually go to jail while whites did not. Mr. Justice Morrow made the following observations:

"For the present moment I will only observe that the Editor's suggestion recited in the paragraph above may be quite valid and could be the result of all or perhaps many things that are to be found in the Hay River area, and alas, in all other parts of the Northwest Territories, in greater or lesser degree.

"To merely mention a few of these things:

"(1) The poverty or desperation of the Indians or Metis results in such an accused almost always taking or having to serve a jail term rather than pay the fine his white brother may be able to put up.

"(2) The Indian or Metis, not having a job to go to, may not be in as good a position to argue for a fine rather than a sentence—to save his job.

"(3) The unmarried female Indian or Metis may be suspected of raising the fine by prostitution so less likely to be fined—in the belief that a jail term is safer for her.

"(4) Because the Indian or Metis is less able to look after himself when drunk he runs a greater risk of being arrested.

"(5) After arrest the Indian or Metis because of lack of understanding of what court process means, language difficulties, and lack of communication with his people, is more likely to plead guilty and is perhaps less likely to be able to put up a plausible explanation, or in fact to even attempt an explanation, in mitigation of sentence.

"(6) The Indian or Metis may have adopted the philosophy that it is his fate to go to jail..."

Of the 881 cases that went before four Justices of the

Peace in Hay River and area in 1966, 609 cases involved drunkenness.

"...What is even more interesting is that 117 of the 609 involved persons of Indian status," reported Morrow.

"During the same period the total population of persons of Indian status (Treaty Indians) at Hay River was 355. If additional non-liquor cases are added the figures show that out of a total population of 355 Indians there were 201 charges preferred.

"The exhibits show, however, that 101 individual Indians were involved. Even on the basis of 101 individual Indians out of a total of 355 (including women and children) one gets the awesome picture of almost one-third of the Indian population passing through the Justice of the Peace court in one year.

"This must be almost the entire adult population. It is also clear from the exhibits that the number of Indian cases is out of proportion to those involving whites."

### LIQUOR

In the section of the report entitled, "Indians, Eskimos and the Liquor Problem, Judge Morrow said that liquor offenses were of high proportion among the Indian population at Hay River as well as in other parts of the Canadian North.

"Liquor," he said, "or intoxication is a factor in almost every case that comes before the courts—Indian, Eskimo or White."

Mr. Justice Morrow continued:

"...Let's look at it from another direction. A white man comes before a Justice of the Peace the 'morning after' and has a job to go to. He has a wife and children to feed.

"The presiding justice, being reluctant to cause loss of employment, almost invariably gives a fine.

"But if it is an Indian or Eskimo the picture is different. The presiding justice probably knows full well the man has no work and that the Indian is probably on welfare.

"If he fines the man he may take his wife's welfare cheque to pay it, and so the family suffers more if the man is fined than if he is

incarcerated. Or, as one of the constables testified, if the accused is a native woman she may sell herself to pay the fine.

"It is small wonder therefore that judgment in such cases is often jail without option of a fine. Small wonder, also, that in some quarters there is a feeling of discrimination, even if it is not so..."

In connection with drunkenness, Morrow made the following recommendation:

"That consideration be given to changing the whole attitude towards drunkenness so that it ceases to be treated as a crime."

Northwest Territories being what they are, territories, are not under the jurisdiction of the Canadian government's Attorney General, a member of the cabinet.

Judge Morrow said, hopefully, "No doubt the time will come when the Territories will have developed to the extent and its local Territorial Government will be considered mature enough so that the Federal Government will deem the time opportune to transfer the administration of justice to the North and with it, the office of Attorney General."

As a stopgap measure, Judge Morrow proposed that the Canadian government appoint a Deputy Attorney General to serve the territories. Morrow made the following recommendation:

"That immediate consideration be given to the desirability of setting up a new office in the Department of Justice at Ottawa to be designated: Assistant Deputy Attorney General of the Northwest Territories.

"That the new officer mentioned above be named from one of the lawyers in the Department, and be given his own staff, and be given the full responsibility the new office demands..."

Toward the execution of the 112 page report to the Canadian government, Judge Morrow was assisted by Inspector H. T. Nixon, who made police documents and records available;

David C. McDonald, Commission Counsel; V. N. Morris, clerk of the hearings; Miss Winnifred Clark and Everett Tingley, court reporters; S. A. Dodds, Administrator for the Hay River area; Chief John Lamallice and Councillor Joe McKay.