

BIA Contracts

ANCHORAGE—The Bureau of Indian Affairs has tentatively scheduled a Bi-Indian Contracting meeting for August 25 in Anchorage. All Nations who contract with the Bureau and those interested in doing so are invited to attend.

Morris Thompson, area director for Alaska, reported with this announcement that his office has been assigned 14 auditors to go over past contracts and that the Federal Government is becoming increasingly particular about its contracting methods.

"There's nothing new about what we're doing," he said. "The problem is they've shorted us on advance funding. In Alaska, rural Alaska, this works a terrific hardship. We are working on this to see if we can get around it."

He added that the purpose of contracting is to provide more and better services to the Alaskan Natives.

John Borbridge Jr., president of the Tlingit and Haida Central Council, asked if Native leaders might attend and caucus.

"The involvement sure as hell better mean more than just listening," he warned. Thompson kept his cool, said leaders could caucus any time they liked.

Bethel Washing Away...

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aged and repaired at a cost of about \$10,000 to the city, \$6,000 to the State Rivers and Harbors Project and \$10,000 to Northern Commercial which occupies a precarious position on the bank.

"The Corps of Engineers started a study on a new sea wall in 1966 and completed their report last September," Webb said. "They estimate it will cost \$4 million to build a sea wall and that there isn't \$4 million in property to protect."

Chief land users in the area are the Moravian Church, Northern Commercial, Swanson Brothers and United Transportation which leases from N.C. The Post Office, adjacent to N.C., is also threatened.

The area has been slowly eroding all summer but a heavy storm took out the bulk of the buttressing in two days flat last

Community Rights of Calif. Indians

The committee on Community Rights of Greenville, California, and four Native Americans living in the Indian Valley region of Plumas County filed suit on July 30, 1971 in Sacramento Federal Court.

The action claims discriminatory expenditure of federal housing assistance funds.

Named as defendants were the Housing Authority of the County of Plumas and its officers, including Robert Hunter of Greenville, who sits on the Plumas County Board of Supervisors.

A spokesman for the Committee on Community Rights charges that: there is local prejudice against Indians and total lack of concern. The suit was filed by William Lamb of California Indian Legal Services, on behalf of the Indian people.

The suit alleges that \$158,000 was received in 1970-1971 by the Housing Authority to pro-

vide monthly rental assistance payments to the poor, who would live in approved new or rehabilitated private housing units.

The funds were intended to provide assistance for persons living in 120 housing units. Only 2 units were allocated to the Greenville area, where 90 per cent of the Indian population lives, the majority of which are poor and ill-housed. Indians received no assistance.

Attorney Lamb states that "the federal law specifically declares a policy of remedying housing conditions in Indian areas, yet, the Housing Authority of Plumas County has consistently ignored the needs of the Indian community."

The suit seeks punitive damages and an order requiring that Indian housing needs be met, i.e. carrying out the housing assistance program for Plumas County.

Aspinall Threatens...

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sort to this tactic if he feels that the Alaska Federation of Natives were seeking a more substantial settlement from the Senate when that body begins work on land claims legislation

in September.

Chairman Aspinall, his colleagues indicate, is willing to move the legislation through both the Interior and Rules Committees in order to bring the bill to the floor for a vote in October.

However, Rep. Aspinall will try to block progress on the bill unless the AFN and the State of Alaska, as well as the full Interior Committee, back the proposal reported out of the subcommittee.

Prior to last weeks announcement that the Indian Affairs Subcommittee had reached agreement on the claims bill, a meeting took place with representatives from the three groups to ascertain whether all parties would back the compromise bill.

Alaska's Attorney General John Havelock, AFN President Don Wright, Interior Committee Consultant Lewis Sigler (representing Aspinall), and representatives from Rep. Begich's office and other congressional offices were present at this meeting.

All the representatives at this meeting committed support for the bill which was subsequently reported out of the subcommittee. An agreement was signed and a committee print authorized.

After the bill was reported out on August 3, Alaska Senator Ted Stevens communicated to Senate Interior Committee Chairman Henry Jackson that he had learned the AFN may lobby for a larger settlement from the Senate.

Word of this reached Rep. Aspinall. He then threatened to block House action on the bill unless AFN President Wright honored his commitment to support the House Subcommittee bill.

Hires Adam John

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banks Native Community.

Mr. John's plans for the future include expansion of the Center's programs and goals, with an emphasis on greater communication between the Center and the people it serves.

"We have learned through many experiences that lawyers, technical assistants, super specialists and all other "super" people, while valuable, are not enough to accomplish our goal of self determination. We must to out into the community, into the homes, wherever the people are and involve them in the solutions to their problems."

Mr. John feels that the failure to seek and accept Native opinions and desires has increasingly isolated people from just and meaningful solutions.

Amchitka Island Shot

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) said the decision to explode a five-megaton nuclear bomb more than a mile beneath the surface at Amchitka, Alaska, now rests solely with President Nixon.

Gravel made his remarks following Senate refusal today to withhold funds for the CANNIKIN explosion, which is scheduled for early October, 1971.

The lawmakers, however, did rephrase the authorizing amendment to stipulate that no funds shall be obligated or expended for the Amchitka detonation

"unless the President gives his direct approval for such a test."

In expressing his disappointment with the Senate's action, Gravel reiterated his belief that "the test is not necessary for our national security" and again voiced his concern over the "potential danger such an explosion poses to Alaskans and the people of the Pacific rim nations."

"I hope the President will cancel the test," Gravel said, "and I urge all Alaskans and other concerned persons to make their views in this regard made known directly to the President."

AFN Studies New Bill...

(Continued from page 1)

Rhodes Wildlife Refuge have this problem and there's no provision for in lieu land.

"No village will be required to move. That's something we were unable to get in the Administration bill, and its an important concession," he added.

But there are technical loopholes that must be ironed out.

"Point Hope can't get enough land for the three townships to which it's entitled because it's on a spit. That's a technical oversight in the bill...I don't think it was done on purpose I think it can be corrected."

"Hooper Bay can get only two townships because of its location. But maybe they could go into the wildlife reserve or along the coast."

The question was raised of Chevak which is blanketed by federal lands.

"Chevak will select and get five townships but only surface title under the present conditions of the bill," Bass said. But he held out hope that there might yet be a chance for mineral rights.

"Nunivak Island is in almost the same position as Chevak under three federal land titles. They are entitled to five townships but because of the location they can get only four with no mineral rights. Individual Natives not living in Mekoryuk (the main village on the island) can get title to 160 acres. They will have full rights. That may be an oversite but we're not going to mention it."

Kuskokwim villagers worried that they would only be allowed subsistence hunting and fishing on townsites but Bass said, "If they can hunt and fish lawfully now (on game preserves) they can continue to do so."

For additional protection of all Native land rights, formation of regional corporations under the IRA was suggested by Charlie Edwardson, executive director of the Arctic Slope Native Assn.

There had been some question as to whether a region would be allowed to form such a corporation but permission has just come through to do so, he reported. The Arctic Slope will vote on it Aug. 26, and Edwardson predicts there is good

chance of passage.

"There are substantial benefits under federal authority. A state chartered corporation can be altered by the State Legislature, depending on the feelings of a state which I think is very hostile to Native inhabitants."

"Being a regular government entity under federal law, to the Arctic Slope Natives, looks more beautiful than eventually being left in the year 2,000 when they take your fee title away."

The IRA corporation would be eligible for funds at the cost of other tax payers, he pointed out. It would also avoid the 40-60 per cent corporate tax of the state.

"If the whiteman enables me three choices I am going to choose all three of them. I'm not going to bind my people to making one bad decision. I'm going to bind them for all three of them!"

"I just want to keep you posted and I don't want to shove it down your throat," he concluded with a grin. But both Wright and Harry Carter, executive director of AFN, said Edwardson's logic is sound and the plan would be considered as protection for other regions of the state.

Wright added that Bethel was a good location for the claims meeting.

"Bethel is one of the most difficult areas because of the linguistic barrier. We had people come in from many villages that were not very familiar with what had happened (the land claims legislation). Now they want to go back and talk to their villages."

He admitted there had been opposition to his policy of holding meetings in rural areas.

"But after this meeting there was agreement with it, after seeing the interest and the expense individuals went to come from the villages to meet with us."

He said the Tlingit-Haidas had just guaranteed a loan to carry AFN through a year's operation and that travel money for additional bush meetings is included.

The next site will be Ft. Yukon, then Kotzebue, Kodiak and Sitka.

Eskimo Olympics Thanks All...

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Outboard Assn. Dick's Chevron, the Musk Ox Project and the Fairbanks Daily News Miner.

Traveler's Inn made a generous contribution to the Queen Contest, Mt. McKinley Bank and Frontier Sporting donated handsomely. Thanks also go to Bazaar, Gladys Morris, Jean's Fabric Shop, Fuller Brush, Owl Tree, Pay'N Save, Alaskaland, Wyler Watch, Mike Brooks Sign Shop, the Alaska State Troopers and the Lettershop.

Hard workers included Capt. Billy English, our long standing M.C.; Edith Tegoseak, Paldine

Carlo and Mrs. Walter Soboleff, lamp tenders; Marshals Edward Lence and Wally Olson; the brave souls who manned the ticket booths and the enterprising program sellers like Debbie Bergt.

We could fill at least three more paragraphs with names but we hope those not listed here will understand that a small paper sometimes runs out of space.

We haven't run out of thanks, though. Named or unnamed, we're grateful for the help.

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Answer to Puzzle No. 7

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