



REAPPORTIONMENT IRRITATES

Unprecedented Native American Coalition

By RICHARD LA COURSE

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(AP)—In an unprecedented political union among Native Americans, the Coalition of Organized Indians and Natives (COIN) formed here Dec. 16 has set a national Indian strategy for the 1970s.

The rare political alliance, born of the turmoil of the NCAI Reno Convention in the third week of November, agreed to establish a common front on issues facing the nation's Indian peoples and to fashion a common political strategy for the 1972 election year.

Participating organizations were the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the American Indian Movement (AIM), and the National Indian Youth Council (NIYC), together with a number of other Indian organizations and federal agencies who attended as interested observers.

The joint national effort, bridging the sometimes anguished breach between Indians on reservations and in the cities, was viewed by coalition members as historic in nature.

Said NCAI President Leon F. Cook:

"This coalition is not meant to be exclusionary but to embrace the organizations recognized as national at this time. We represent the Indian world at this point in time. This meeting is proof positive that we can be genuinely together."

(The National Tribal Chairmen's Association declined to participate without any advance notice. It was learned that the NTCA, meeting in Sarasota, Fla., on Dec. 9 in a secret vote during



LEON F. COOK
... NCAI President

a closed executive council meeting determined that its invited delegates, President William Youpee and Navajo Chairman Peter

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Chiefs to Meet

The Tanana Chiefs Conference will hold a meeting on Jan. 9, 10, and 11, and if necessary, on January 12, to discuss, and plan for the implementation of the Alaska Native Land Claims Act.

The meeting will be held in the Fairbanks Native Community Center and will begin Sunday at 10 a.m.

Travel and per diem are being arranged.

Details will be broadcast to village representatives.

For further information contact Al Ketzler at the Fairbanks Native Community Center or call 452-1648.



HOLLY CHRISTINE JUNG—Little Holly is the only baby we know so far who was born on December 18, 1971, the day President Nixon signed the native land claims bill. If there are more native babies born that day, TT wants to know.

—ROBERT KOWELUK Photo

Holly Christine Jung Only Land Claims Cutoff Baby So Far

Here at TUNDRA TIMES we are beginning to believe that the entire native population of Alaska took a vacation from having babies on December 18, 1971.

Why December 18? That's the cutoff for native children to be eligible for benefits under the Alaska Native Claims Act, which was signed into law by President Nixon on that day.

TUNDRA TIMES is still offering a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond to the child born closest to midnight on that day. However, due to the following letter received the other day from Kenneth C. Bass, attorney for Alaska Federation of Natives in Washington, our definition of midnight has had to change.

"I read with interest your article concerning the last Native baby to be born and eligible for

benefits in the Settlement Act. I had informed you in Anchorage that in my opinion the cut-off time would be 12 midnight EST, December 18, 1971.

"Upon further study and discussion with other lawyers in the office, we have concluded that the cutoff time should be 12 midnight December 18, 1971, LOCAL TIME (emphasis provided by TT). Thus, a Native baby born before midnight in Nome, Alaska should, in our opinion, be eligible, even though the cut-off time expired three hours earlier in Juneau."

So, TUNDRA TIMES will be offering its prize to the baby born closest to midnight according to the local time in its area.

Meanwhile, we're presenting

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Will Hurt Native Fishermen Says Rep. Naughton

By NORMA BOWKETT
Staff Writer

Democratic Rep. Edward Naughton of Kodiak believes Governor William A. Egan's reapportionment plan will "diminish" the voice of the native fishermen of Alaska.

"What the governor has done," said Naughton, "is to reduce the number of legislators by one seat in each house. He reduced the number of the House of Representatives who come from fisheries districts by one and he reduced the number of senators who come from fisheries districts by one...so that the voice of the native fisherman is significantly diminished."

"This is a sad commentary on the attitude of this administration on the basic industry of our state," Naughton said. "Fisheries employ more people than timber, mining and petroleum" and "90 per cent of the fishermen in Alaska are natives."

The Alaska native is the "historic fisherman in Alaska—the backbone of the fish catching phase of the industry. He is here every year. He lives in Alaska" at the end of the fishing season, Naughton said, and the governor's plan for reapportionment has reduced the native's "influence to do what's necessary to develop the fishing industry."

According to Naughton, the

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Bradner: Natives Did Well Under Reapportionment

Fairbanks Democratic Rep. Mike Bradner told the Tundra Times Monday that Alaska "natives probably made out extremely well" under the governor's plan for reapportionment of the state.

"It is obvious the governor did everything he could to save the rural districts," Bradner said.

But, he said, because of the "unique definition of 'one man one vote'" incorporated in the plan, he is "extremely afraid that if the plan goes to court it could be struck down."

Normally, Bradner said, "one house member must equal so many population and one senator must equal double that population if that's the basis the legislature is set up on."

However, said Bradner, the "plan presented evidently allows districts to vary in the house and senate considerably but claims where the house members

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Would Amend Workmen's Compensation Act to Cover Natives

Representative Mike Bradner (D-Fairbanks) came out today in favor of the Alaska State Legislature passing legislation which would amend the Workmen's Compensation Act to provide for coverage of natives building their own homes under the Alaska State Housing Authority program.

"The idea sounds like an excellent one," Bradner said.

He said this in response to a query by the Tundra Times.

The process, however, said Bradner, could be quite complicated. It would be a matter of pinpointing who the "carrier" would be and how the system would work.

The absence of such legislation was brought to light when two natives—one in Point Hope and one in Tooksook Bay—were

injured while they were participating in an ASHA self-help project.

Participants working on their own homes under the terms of this program are not now eligible.

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Guess to Challenge Stevens— State House Speaker Says 'I Would Like to Go Up'

Outside of a formal announcement from the State Speaker of the House, Gene Guess, it is becoming quite clear that Rep. Guess will be throwing his hat in the ring to contest the U.S. Senate seat now being occupied by Senator Ted Stevens.

"I've gone as far as I want to

go in our state government and I would like to go up," Guess told Tundra Times.

The Anchorage legislator has served in the state government for over ten years and was installed as the Speaker of the House last year.

Senator Stevens' seat is up for election in 1972.

The two men, both of them from Anchorage, are known as top vote getters.

Rep. Guess is expected to formally announce his intention in the near future.