

Stamp Amendment-

Use Food Stamps for Ammunition

Senator Ted Stevens has written a letter to Senator Carl Curtis, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, urging the committee to adopt his amendment to the Food Stamp Act of 1964.

Wednesday the Committee turned down the amendment on the opposition of pro-gun control Senators.

Basically, Stevens' amendment would allow Alaskan Natives, or those who have adopted the Native subsistence way of life, to purchase ammunition with food stamps and ease the requirements for eligibility to allow more persons to purchase the stamps.

Stevens introduced similar amendments in both the 91st and the 92nd Congress.

The Department of Agriculture had opposed the purchase of "non-food items such as ammunition" with food stamps.

In answering this argument, Stevens stated in his letter that "Residents of coastal and rural Alaska have a physiological, psychological and cultural dependence on local animals for subsistence . . . they waste nothing."

"The harsh environment, subsistence economy and cultural background require the utilization of every scrap of animal hide, meat, bone and sinew," the Senator continued.

"Alaskan Natives cannot buy this meat. The stores are small and stock only a few items. Beef, pork and chicken are almost never available, and when they are they are prohibitively expensive."

Stevens emphasized, "If our purpose is to give poor Alaskans food with the food stamps, the best way we can do this is to permit them to buy ammunition with food stamps so they can hunt for subsistence."

Stevens reminded the committee that during hearings on the Marine Mammals Protection

Act special consideration was given to Alaskan Natives.

"Such a special attention to be paid again," said the Senator. "We have such a unique situation in Alaska, with the numbers of both Natives and non-Natives who depend on the land and the ocean for the basic existence and comforts."

Stevens emphasized that his amendment would apply only to Alaska where such pressing and unusual needs are present.

Young Addresses Planning Comm.

U.S. Congressman Don Young addressed the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission in Anchorage on April 23 and urged his fellow Alaskans to make their views on the land known to the Commission.

"I fear Alaska's future may be damaged by the overwhelming testimony of Outsiders whose views do not match those of Alaskans."

"The more Alaskans who offer verbal and written testimony to the Commission, the better Alaska's chances for charting its own future," said Young.

Young compared the situation in Alaska to the crowds and congestion of the nation's capital and other Eastern cities. "A planning commission could have alleviated some of the urban problems that now plague our major cities," he observed.

"Here in Alaska, the opportunity still exists to plan wisely for the future rather than just blunder into it."

However, Young cautioned the commission against locking up the land or parceling it out "to federal agencies whose management policies and overall goals are sometimes in conflict with each other and the needs of the nation."

"Our planning is for men, not for muskrats or mountains or money, but for men," said Young. "I ask you to consider land for people. Alaska is not a pie to be sliced and apportioned according to the appetites of different federal agencies. First and foremost, Alaska belongs to Alaskans. Second, it belongs to the nation."

Congressman Young strongly opposed the setting aside of 11 million acres of the Yukon Flats as a wildlife refuge for birds.

"It is foolhardy to lock up an area half the size of the state of Kentucky for a single purpose to the exclusion of all

1 for Pt. Hope

Mayor John Oktollik of Point Hope last week caught the first bowhead whale for the village.

The catch is late for Point Hope as the season starts around the middle of April. It ends around the last week of May.

The difficulty in getting whales was attributed to unfavorable conditions caused by south wind that kept the leads from opening.

It was reported that it was the first phase of the season and Captain Oktollik successfully took his whale.

others."

Young recommended to the Commission the multiple-use concept of land management, and he commended them for going to the people to hear their views before, rather than after, making final decisions.

The commission will conduct hearings in communities in virtually every section of Alaska, before making their recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior.

Congressman Young urged all interested Alaskans to express their views on the 79 million acres now classified as D-2 lands, and the additional 48 million acres classed D-1 in the national interest.

Sen. Stevens And Oldtimers

Senator Stevens has introduced an amendment favoring the country's senior citizens, allowing them to receive the full amount of both a longevity bonus and assistance from the federal government to the aged, blind and disabled.

Senator Stevens said currently anyone receiving longevity bonuses, such as those provided by Alaska, consequently receives a smaller amount of federal aid.

"Because of the harsh climate and high cost of living, many Alaskans found their retirement insufficient to meet their needs in Alaska and were forced to move to the lower 48," said Senator Stevens.

Continued the Senator, "The bill I am introducing would make it possible for the senior citizens of Alaska and of any other state where a program such as the longevity bonus is in effect to realize the benefits of such programs without losing or reducing their entitlements to public assistance programs."

ANMC Official ...

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ANMC officials is called the Alaska Native Ad Hoc Health Committee. Head of the Ad Hoc committee is Mike Harper, RurAL CAP, Brenda Itta, newly appointed AFN Health advisor, and Carl Jack, director of the Healthrite Program.

Ivey called the Ad Hoc group a "positively oriented group." However, he added that ANMC also works very closely with the Alaska Native Health Board, which only recently reorganized to conform to the twelve region concept of the Land Claims Act.

"We look to them for official direction," he stated. "We can't listen to fifty different voices."

Brenda Itta confirmed that the Alaska Native Ad Hoc Committee was formed to look into the death of Violet Arrow.

"We were given specific instructions to look into the

treatment and policies on alcoholism," said Ms. Itta, but she added, "It is evolving into something bigger than that."

The Ad Hoc Health Committee was reviewing the Patient Bill of Rights, a unique paper developed by the American Medical Association and revised by the Public Health Service.

Ivey said the ANMC is the only hospital in the state that even has a Patient Bill of Rights.

"There is a section in it on experimentation, NOT to allow experimentation," said Ivey.

Itta did not see the Ad Hoc committee as a permanent one but one that is acting in the interim period.

"I know there are many, many things that are dehumanizing to the patient," she said, "and that's what our committee is working on."

Trans-Alaska Pipeline-

Gravel, Stevens Introduce Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Senator Mike Gravel appeared before the Senate Interior Committee to urge that panel to report to the entire Senate at the same as other, less comprehensive bills, legislation that would give final and complete authorization to construct the trans-Alaska pipeline.

The legislation, S. 970, introduced by Senators Gravel and Ted Stevens, would not only permit a right-of-way of sufficient width to construct the trans-Alaska pipeline, but would also find that all environmental requirements had been satisfied.

This would remove the pipe line from further consideration by the Courts.

The other legislation, expected to reach the Senate floor by mid-May, deals only with the right-of-way problem.

It is not yet known if the Committee will report a bill setting national policy for all utility corridors over public lands or another, more simple bill, that amends the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act to provide discretion for the Secretary of the Interior in granting permits for right-of-way.

"I believe it important that the Senate have the opportunity to consider at the same time both the narrow bill on right-of-way and the more complete

measure on the entire trans-Alaska pipeline," Senator Gravel commented.

"This will maximize our ability to get the most far-reaching legislation possible from the Senate. The Nation's energy crisis and balance of payments problem demand that the Congress do as much as it can to get North Slope oil moving to market."

"The bill by Senator Stevens and myself will do this. In the course of debate I believe we can persuade many Senators and Congressmen of the rightness of our cause and enlist their support for our bill," he said.

Senator Gravel spent most of his testimony before Senator Henry M. Jackson's Interior panel refuting several myths about the trans-Alaska pipeline and its supposed alternative pipeline through Canada.

Studded Tires

Drivers are reminded that May 1 was the deadline for removing studded tires from their vehicles.

Drivers may be cited for violation of a Department of Highways' regulation forbidding the use of such tires commencing May 1.

Wake of Arrow's Death

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further charges were rumored to be forthcoming against the Native Medical Center, specifically that intra-uterine birth control devices were inserted in several native women without their knowledge or permission.

Harper said he has not been able to track down the sources of those charges nor the charges that native patients at the hospital are being used for medical experimentation. Carl Jack, director of the Health Affairs office of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., has requested a formal medical audit into the death of Ms. Arrow by a third party of impartial decision.

Harper, meanwhile, said each grievance against the Medical Center will be investigated and a decision made on possible further action.

We are here to make constructive criticism," he said.

Harper added that his group would work with the Area Native Health Board shared by Lillie McGarvey. Dr. Robert Fortune, director of the Alaska Native Medical Center, said charges of insertions of IUDs took his staff completely by surprise as did those on medical experimentation.

"A lot of our staff feel they are being pre-judged in the papers before they have had a chance to testify at any civil action," he said.

Fortune added that he still felt there was no evidence to support charges of criminal activities connected with the death of Ms. Arrow. Fortune said Dr. Michael Emmick, who saw Ms. Arrow as an outpatient on the day of her death, did everything that was expected of him.

"Maybe it is for a court to decide whether his judgment was good, but I don't think his motives or integrity should be called into judgment at all," Fortune said.

Observers for the Ad Hoc group meanwhile have been monitoring services in the outpatient part of the Medical Center where Emmick is on the

staff, and occasionally in other wards of the hospital, according to spokesman for the Ad Hoc Committee.

Still nearer to the base of the Violet Arrow case, lie charges from the Ad Hoc Health Committee on the attitude of hospital staff towards native patients.

"The only way attitudes will change is for people to voice their opinion . . . and with orientation to the native cultures," said Mark Small, a consultant to the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Small has been working with the Health Committee in Anchorage.

"We must allow the natives to be natives again. You cannot build pride into people who are oppressed," Small said.

American Indians did not even get the right of citizenship in their own land until the late 1920's and the right to drink was not accorded American Indians until 1953.

Harper is optimistic about improvements, however. He knows that the Native Medical Center is willing to discuss grievances. Harper also noted complications resulting from a state law, which went into effect October 1, 1972, forbidding the jailing of persons who are drunk simply because they are drunk.

Harper and Fortune agreed that the number of persons in alcohol-related problems treated at the Medical Center had increased substantially since the law went into effect. In fact, Fortune said the average number of alcoholics treated as outpatients is up 120 per cent.

Between January 1 and April 15, 1973, 741 persons were treated in the emergency room of the Native Medical Center and of these more than 40 per cent were alcohol related medical problems, Fortune said.

Fortune said about 20 per cent, or 1 out of 5, of these persons was admitted to the hospital and nearly another 30 per cent were referred to the Social Development Center for detoxification.

3 Children ...

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soldiers, surrounded by a group of curious children, were attempting to rekindle a wood fire in their Yukon stove when the fire broke out.

The injured were airlifted to Tanana by Bettles Aviation for immediate treatment. Richard Hugo was then flown by Harold's Air Service to Fort Wainwright. The child arrived at Bassett at about 12:15 Thursday morning.

The two soldiers arrived at about 2:15 a.m.

PVT Adams and SP4 Fretwell were at Anaktuvuk pass in support of C Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 172 Brigade which was conducting an exercise in the area.

Ice Classic ...

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tickets. He also worked as a typist, helped with the mimeographing and was also a watchman at the Civic Center while the work was in progress. This year he was watching the clock when the tripod started to move.

There weren't many tourists this year but almost all of the townspeople lined the bank. Because of habit? No. The break-up heralds the coming of Spring when the river is free of ice, and the people are linked by Alaska's own waterways with their people in the villages on the Tanana, the Yukon and all the other navigable rivers.

Ice Classic 1973 is officially over and Spring has arrived.