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# ASNA Mails Sample Petition to Organize Borough

The Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA) has sent out a sample petition to the North Slope villages for the purpose of incorporating a second class borough.

If and when the borough is established, the proposed name of which is to be, "The Arctic Slope Borough," it

would have as its tax base all improvements, facilities, all oil field equipment, drill rigs not actually connected to oil wells and all properties taxable under law and not otherwise prohibited

by restricted title.

The borough would include the villages of Barrow, which would be the seat of government, Wainwright, Barter Island, Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope.

The second class borough would have the same boundaries embraced by the ASNA land assertion. The area roughly stretches from the Canadian bor-

(Continued on page 6)

# ASNA, Borough...

(Continued from page 1)

der on the east running westerly along the Brooks Range, that would include the village of Anaktuvuk Pass, continuing westerly along the range to the vicinity of Cape Thompson so it would include the village of Point Hope.

"It is our belief that this boundary conforms to the standards set out in Sec. 07.10.030 in the Alaska Statutes," the sample petition declares.

Based on the population of the proposed borough, it would have five assembly seats apportioned from each village. It would have an elected chairman at large if this is the wish of the people.

"The proposed Arctic Slope Borough wishes to exercise the areawide powers for health in addition to the regular powers granted or required under the statutes for second class boroughs," the petition said.

Eben Hopson, executive director of the Arctic Slope Native Association, in his letter to the villages that would be included in the borough, set down to enlarge the information in the following:

"(1) First, in our discussion of this proposal with John Beard, the director of the Local Affairs Agency in the Governor's office, these things were brought out;

"(a) That the borough would be responsible, upon its takeover, for the operation and maintenance of all our schools;

"(b) That because there are no First Class cities within the area proposed to be incorporated, there would be no weighted voting;

"(c) That based on the total population of the area, we would have one assemblyman from each village, and an elected chairman at large if this were the wish of the people;

"(d) That we would also, upon incorporation, assume a taxing power to raise revenue so that the borough could operate under its government;

"(e) That all improvements, facilities and equipment within the area would be assessed to determine our tax base which would include among other things, all oil field equipment, drill rigs not actually connected to a well, and all properties taxable under law, not otherwise prohibited by restricted title.

"(f) You should so remember that along with this incorporation we would have to assume the responsibility of appointing all our school boards, clerks, tax assessors, all school teachers and other personnel to support the operation of a school, school books and other equipment will have to be bought, etc.

"(g) In addition to those powers required under the second

class borough, we would ask for areawide powers for health which would give us the authority to contract for medical people, where we do not have them now—doctors and nurses.

"(h) In our petition for incorporation, which is the first step necessary, we say that Barrow, Wainwright, Point Hope, Kaktovik (Barter Island) and Anaktuvuk Pass, wish to incorporate using the same boundaries as our land claim."

"The petition itself," added Hopson, "looks simple enough but it involves a lot more than what can be seen on the surface."

The borough incorporation will require approval of the Local Affairs Agency and the Local Boundary Commission, Hopson said, and that he feels there was good reason to be optimistic of the chances for approval.

He said that the desire for self determination on the part of the people who wish to exercise that right should not be denied by those who govern.

"I think every opportunity should be afforded the people who wish to initiate and suffer the hardships of self determination through a more expanded local government," Hopson stated.

"It is also my belief that the fact that we have started this petition for incorporation on our own and explaining the involvement of the people in local government is a very healthy thing."

He said that in the event the petition gains enough signatures and submitted to the administration through proper channels, and were to meet all requirements under law and after adequate hearings were to meet with approval, the North Slope group would have one year in which to get organized and put the borough government in a position to function.

He said there would be a need for qualified people in areas of responsibility. There would be need for tax experts and other fields.

"However," Hopson concluded, "we should not feel that we are not ready to assume full responsibility for expanded local self government because we can hire expertise where we need them.

"I am not saying that we do not have them. We have many good business people with our area and other civic-minded individuals who are just waiting for opportunities like this to tackle.

"Perhaps to many of you this sounds like a big task, and it is a big task. Personally, I don't think it is so big that we cannot handle it."