

Tundra Times Weekly Page

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

Know Your Leaders—

Petite Margaret Nick Does Man-sized Jobs

A petite young lady from Bethel with man-sized jobs is the secretary of the Alaska Federation of Natives. She is Margaret Nick, Director for Economic Development in Bethel, a research program sponsored by the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Miss Nick is also a member of the National Indian Advisory Board, a member of the National Indian Task Force, and is currently working with both the Bethel area Vista Volunteers as well as with Bethel's Akolmuit Dormitory, which is owned and operated by the Village of Akolmuit.

During the summer, Miss Nick was an intern in Senator Edward M. Kennedy's office as well as in those of the Alaska delegation. She has spoken on land claims before groups in Washington, D.C., South Carolina, Chicago and Denver as well as before meetings with Village Councils in the Bethel area.



MARGARET NICK

Miss Nick's father is a member of the Nunapitchuk City Council and her brother holds the same slot in Bethel.

Human Awareness

A national conference attended by Tribal Indian leaders from throughout the United States has resulted in the formation of a National Council of Indian Awareness, according to Flore Lekanof.

Lekanof, who attended the meeting which was held in Washington, D.C., December 12th, represented the Alaska Federation of Natives and Alaska, one of the twelve regions which comprise the group.

The conference was sponsored by Commissioner Louis Bruce of the BIA, and partially funded by Arrow, Inc., a non-profit Indian interest organization of which Bruce is a director.

The goal of the newly formed national council is to create a better image of the American Indian (including the Alaskan Native) by informing the public on the needs of the Indians by publicizing what various Indian

groups are doing.

As part of the dispersal of information on Indian activity, the group sponsored a dinner during the conference which featured foods from the Pueblo people of New Mexico.

Alaska will be featured at the next dinner, which will be held in Washington, D.C., during the last week in February. The menu will include Alaskan foods such as moose, caribou, reindeer, muk-tuk and other foods from Alaska.

About 150 people including members of both houses of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee are expected to attend and hear about the Alaska Native Land Claims issue.

Considerable press coverage is expected, says Lekanof, adding that anyone wishing to contribute food to the dinner should contact him at the AFN Public Relations Office in Anchorage.

Nunapitchuk Writes to Hickel

Nunapitchuk, Alaska 99641
December 29, 1969

Hon. Walter J. Hickel
Secretary of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Hickel:

Our forefathers were living in this land from ages unknown. When they died they were buried into this land and their blood seeped into the land. We were born to this with nothing. When your forefathers were living on their land they probably had owned property and the property was undoubtedly passed down to you. We did not have any property handed down to us from our forefathers. From this land we have made our daily livelihood. We are not working for wages in dollars each day for our daily bread.

When the Russians claimed that they have discovered Alaska there were people living on this land striving to live off the land. Then the U.S. bought Alaska the same people were living on this land striving to get their food off the land, as it is today. Therefore, we do not wish that the

land be taken away from us and sold to private individuals or organizations thereby limiting or restricting our major source of living. Approximately 10 per cent of our food is bought from the stores. Ninety per cent comes from the land.

When the Pilgrims landed in America they shouted joyously that they have discovered the land and thanked God. They vowed to make it a land of the free. Later, the white man pushed the Indians back and took their hunting grounds. Are you in a process of doing the same thing to us?

Your law says no one can enter a locked door. Are you about to break the lock on our hunting grounds and take it? How we have tried to keep our land for ourselves because it is our major source of food. And we consider our efforts as our lock to our hunting grounds. When you run out of cash in your pocket you run to your bank to get money for your food. We run to our land to get our food.

Your's truly,
Nunapitchuk Village Council

AFN PR Man Poses Land Claims Issue In State of Washington

The Alaska Federation of Natives has launched a statewide effort in Washington to obtain further support for the natives on the land claims issue.

When the bill, now in the Senate committee on Interior and Insular Affairs comes before the full Senate and, finally the House, the AFN would like the support of the congressmen from Washington, according to Jim Thomas, public relations director of the AFN.

Chairman of the committee in the Senate is Henry Jackson of Washington.

Thus, Thomas is now touring the state in an effort to contact every newspaper editor in Washington in hopes that at least 90 per cent of them will publish editorials on the land claims issue by March.

In addition, he will also be speaking to church groups, Chamber of Commerce officials, and Indian groups and laying the groundwork for future visits from other AFN spokesmen.

In approaching the people of Washington, Thomas has explained the position of the natives on the land claims issue and stressed that anytime Alaska gains, Washington gains because everything going to Alaska must first go through Seattle.

"Alaska's stagnation as a result of claims is also Washington's diminished return," he explained, before starting the trip.

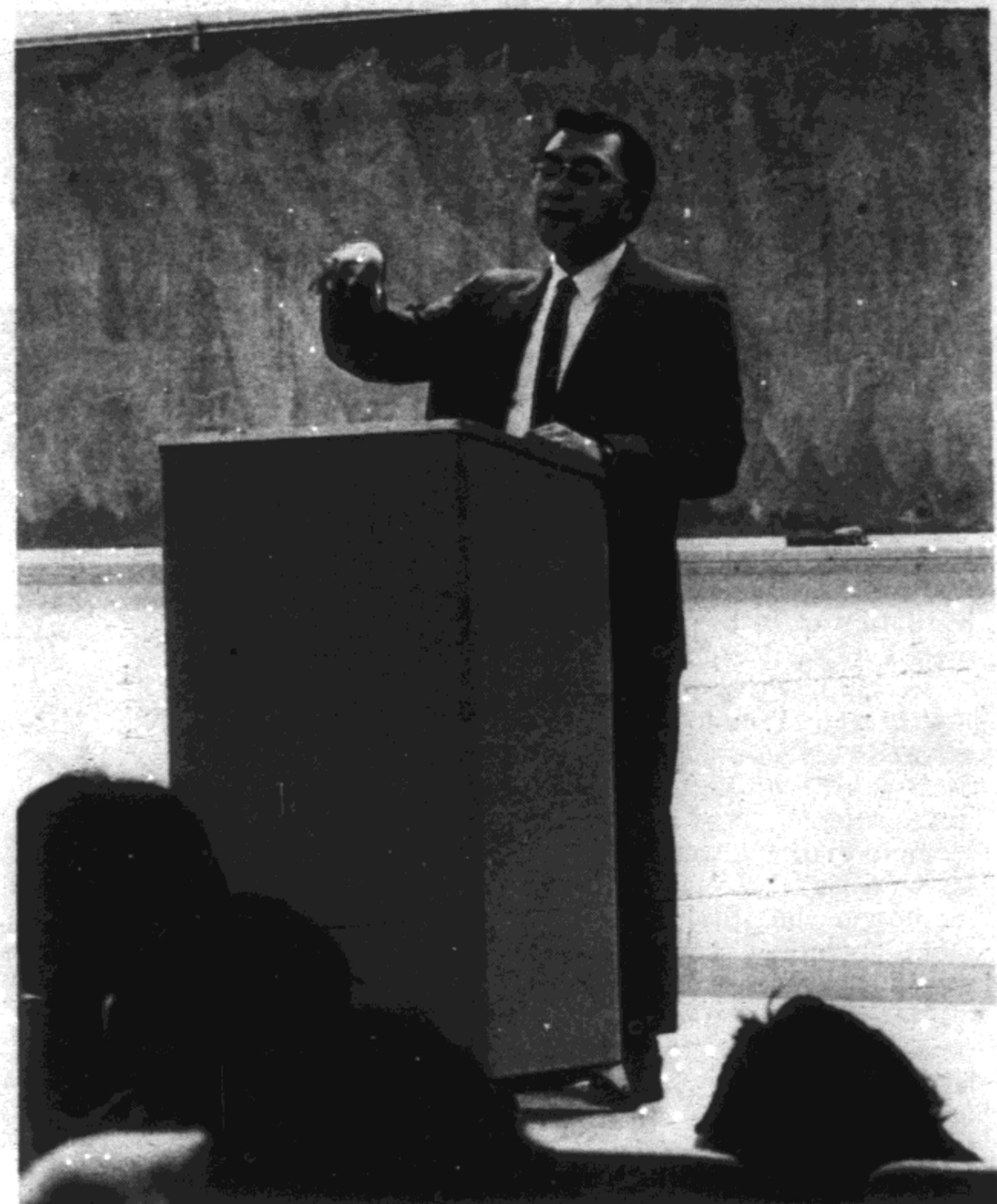
Thomas left his office in Anchorage on Thursday.

On Jan. 16, he met with Virgil Greipp, communications director for the Washington Presbyterian Synod and scheduled speaking engagements for the AFN officials in the area churches.

As the result of a meeting the next day with the Small Tribes of Washington, the organization will hold a statewide "Pow-Wow" February 7 in Tacoma for about 2,000 people.

The event will serve as a press conference for the Alaska native leaders who will be arriving in Washington.

Thomas also spoke at the Olympic Presbyterian Church in



JIM THOMAS

Tacoma where each of the 40 Presbyterian Churches for the Presbytery were represented. According to Thomas, the response was very good.

In Everett, he addressed the North Puget Sound Presbytery speaking to about 80 ministers and elders who will in turn relay his message to their respective churches.

Thomas's plans then took him to Seattle where he talked with a Seattle Times writer. As a result, a lengthy article on AFN efforts in Washington appeared Jan. 19.

The next day an article appeared in the Seattle Post Intelligencer titled "Indian P.R. Chief Speaks."

Other meetings included an interview with editor of the Bellingham Herald, a speech before

125 people of the Bellingham Rotary Club, a meeting with the editor of Mt. Vernon Skagit Herald, a taping at KOMO radio television station, interviews with the associate editor of Presbytery Life, circulation of one million, with KING television and radio in Seattle, and with KIRO radio and television.

In one day, according to Thomas, the story of land claims will be shown on three of Seattle's largest stations.

He also addressed the Seattle Presbytery, representing all Presbyterian churches in Metropolitan Seattle and the Washington Council of Churches where he was to present a resolution for them to act on.

Thomas plans to conclude his trip in Seattle on Jan. 28.

AFN Speakers Bureau Busy

The Alaska Federation of Natives, endeavoring to reach the people through a "face-to-face relationship" by the Speakers Bureau of the AFN Public Relations Office had several speaking engagements to fill this week.

Flore Lekanof, President of the Aleut League, will show the CBS news commentary by Mike Wallace to the Muldoon Lions Club in Anchorage.

He is also scheduled to speak before the Kenai Education Association as well as the Anchorage Welcome Center, and the Rural School Finance Committee meeting of the Alaska Legislature in Juneau.

The Deputy Director of the AFN, Alfred Ketzler, will be at Kodiak to participate in the Kodiak Area Native Association's meeting.

Speaking before the PHS patients at the Alaska Native Medical Center, which has been confirmed as a weekly presentation, will be Showalter J. Smith.

LAND CLAIMS INFORMATION

LEGAL MEMORANDUM SUPPORTING THE NATIVE PROPOSALS

A case for two items: (1) the legal rights and (2) the over-riding royalty which was presented by some of the most distinguished American lawyers.

SPECIAL LAND RIGHTS ISSUE OF THE TUNDRA TIMES

The December 19th, 1969 issue has the legal basis, the moral case, the 2 per cent royalty, the AFN proposal, year end report of AFN by Emil Notti, a history of Alaskan Native movement, background to a historic issue, and other features.

PACKET INFORMATION

Packet sent out contains STATEMENTS before committees and organizations, REPORTS from NATIVE LEADERS and AFN LAWYERS; newspaper clippings from every newspaper in the STATE OF ALASKA; AFN news releases; results from AFN's SPEAKERS BUREAU; etc.

THIS MATERIAL AND QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE CAN BE OBTAINED BY WRITING TO:

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.
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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501