

Sen. Lowell Thomas, Jr. Breaks with Gov. Keith Miller

State Sen. Lowell Thomas, Jr. this week broke with Governor Keith H. Miller on the grounds of Miller's stand against the native land claims as proposed by the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Both men are Republicans. Sen. Thomas told the Anchorage Daily News that the state should put its money behind an early settlement of the native land claims and suggested that

\$100 million of state money would be a reasonable contribution toward the settlement. Thomas also denied Rep. Tom Fink's contention that the reason the state legislature passed a

measure a year and a half ago calling for the state to contribute \$50 million toward the native land claims was passed in the event the land freeze was lifted.

"A majority voted for it because we thought the Natives had it coming, that it was the right thing to do," declared Sen. Thomas.

(Continued on page 6)

Tundra Times



RECEIVED
1969
STATE LIBRARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA
15c

Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage
Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks
Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak

Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting
HAIDA
Yaunk yawn sue
Speak the absolute truth

Vol. 7, No. 237

Friday, December 5, 1969

Fairbanks, Alaska

46 MILLION GROUP BACKS AFN

Nat'l Church Council Votes Unanimously Backing Native Claims

Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives calling Tundra Times from Detroit, Mich. said simply, "I have good news for you."

Notti said that the National Council of Churches in its Triennial General Assembly in Detroit, Mich., gave unanimous support to a resolution calling for a prompt and equitable settlement of the Alaska Native Land Claims issue now pending before the United States Congress.

The resolution was introduced by Dr. Frederick P. McGinnis, president of the Alaska Methodist University in Anchorage, and who was Alaska's lone delegate to the 3,000-man attendance at the National Council's general assembly.

The action taken placed a combined influence in strength of the 46 million members of the National Council of Churches of the United States of America squarely behind the struggle of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

The national council represents 33 member communes of Protestants, Orthodox, Anglican

traditions and has a combined membership of 46 million persons.

Emil Notti addressed the 3,000 persons gathered for the plenary session and in his remarks called upon the national council for support of the AFN in efforts to secure an equitable settlement.

Notti noted that the Alaska land claims issue was the last chance for the United States government to write an honorable chapter in its history of dealing with the aboriginal peoples of this nation.

"We are a lot happier today than we were yesterday," said Jim Thomas, public relations director for the AFN in Anchorage. "It was great that the Na-

(Continued on page 6)



AFN PR MAN—Jim Thomas, director of the Alaska Federation of Natives public relations, is delivering his speech on, Claims Today—"Now" Tomorrow, to the audience at the Duckering Building at the University of Alaska last week. The speech was well received. Jim Thomas de-

lighted a large audience as a co-master of ceremonies at the Tundra Times 7th anniversary banquet on October 5 in Anchorage. Thomas is a Tlingit from Yakutat.

—ROBERT KOWELUK Photograph

AFN PR Man Talks

Jim Thomas, director of public relations for the Alaska Federation of Natives, last Friday spoke at the Duckering Building at the University of Alaska and dropped a hint that might be thought about by more than a single person in the state.

Thomas spoke about the Alaska native land claims to the audience predominant with native college students and a number of professors.

"I sometimes wonder," Jim Thomas said, "how much oil leased lands are involved in the fear which grip those people who so strongly oppose the land claims settlement. Is there the possible fear that they may give up rights to lands which have become a mite illicitly theirs?"

Thomas told the audience that for many of our natives, the legend of the first coming of the white man was only some 80 years old.

"And yet, we're expected to assimilate into the new society of Alaska with nothing of the economic basis employed by that society."

"Progress," he added, "of any nature for a government of any

(Continued on Page 4)

Miraculous Escape from Death—

Former Legislator Shot Four Times

"It's good to see you again." A simple statement? Yes. Many of us have said it quite a number of times under ordinary circumstances when, for instance, one says it after not seeing a friend for a month, six months, a year, five years, or ten years. Onesays it with feeling.

"It's good to see you again," said Norbert Skinner this week

after not seeing a friend for only a day. He said it with a handshake and a wide smile.

Skinner had one of the most important reasons in man's existence for saying what he did. He had just come back from the edge of eternity. Incredibly, he joked mildly with friends, and—with a bullet still lodged in his head and another on his upper

right shoulder.

Another bullet had gone clear through his upper right arm. Another pistol shot had grazed the right side of his head, bounced and nipped his ear.

"I guess I'm kind of tough and fairly rugged," he smilingly told his friends. "I don't think it was my time yet."

Last Friday night around

10:00 p.m. Norb Skinner had stopped to talk to two young men near the Northward Building in downtown Fairbanks. They had asked him to drive them to a cabin owned by a friend, they said.

Skinner started out driving on the Steese Highway and turned off on the Steel Creek Road. He asked the men whether they had gone too far and passed the cabin and the men thought they had.

Skinner turned into a driveway to turn the car around to go back. As he zigzagged the car, he heard something that sounded like a firecracker and saw flashes of light. The man riding in the rear had started shooting.

Norb Skinner said he didn't know what had happened. He thought he might have been stunned momentarily and the first thing he realized was that the man in the back seat had pinned him against the steering wheel pushing the backrest with his legs.

"This made me angry," recalled Skinner.

He wrenched free and grabbed for the man in the rear. The man went out of the car on the opposite side of the driver's seat. The

(Continued on page 6)

TAPS Man Said Most of Pipeline May Be Buried in 8-Foot Ditch

John Nation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) public relations department, Texas, said this week that the 48-inch oil pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez might be buried in an 8-foot deep ditch most of the distance except the last 50 miles on the North Slope.

Nation said that the pipe on the 50 mile stretch on the North Slope might be elevated on wood pilings in such a way that it would not interfere with the migration of animals such as the

caribou.

He said the suspended pipeline would be insulated perhaps with plastic foam to guard against the frigid temperatures of the North Slope.

Nation commented that soil testing was going along well and almost completed except in the southern portion of it around the Copper River area. He said inclement weather has been the factor in the completion of soil testing.

He said soil tests showed some

favorable aspects so the pipe can be buried in 8 feet of ground because of the comparatively dry permafrost nature of the soil tested.

John Nation said TAPS was establishing a public relations office in the City of Anchorage and that he would be manning the office there.

For inquiries and information, he can be reached at TAPS, Post Office Box 4-Z, Anchorage, Alaska and the phone number is 277-1661.