

Three-Step Program—

Training for Oil Industry Jobs

Alaska's Senator Ted Stevens and a high ranking official from the Alaska Department of Labor are scheduled to meet in New York Monday, December 8, with oil and pipeline industry representatives operating in Alaska to discuss the implementation of Stevens' 3-step program to provide Alaskans with summer job training.

"If we are successful in working out a federal-state-industry cooperative program to train Alaskans for the jobs that will be available in the emerging oil and pipeline industries we will have a good chance of breaking

the Alaska poverty cycle," Senator Stevens said.

The Republican Senator for Alaska stated that so far industry representatives have responded enthusiastically to his proposal. Stevens' program calls for the oil and pipeline industries to first prepare an inventory of the number of types of jobs that will be available.

The industries will also provide instructors and any special equipment that might be necessary to conduct the summer classes. The program will also be coordinated with federal apprenticeship programs in Alaska. The

remaining step in Stevens' proposal is for the BIA to make the Mt. Edgecumbe school in Sitka available during the summer months.

Stevens has requested Interior Secretary Wally Hickel to make the schools available.

"This program could train hundreds of Alaskans for good paying jobs. It is the kind of program that will greatly assist the State Department of Labor in its effort to move Alaskans into our work force. I am very much looking forward to next Monday's meeting," Senator Stevens said.

Council of Churches Backs AFN...

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tional Council of Churches gave Emil a chance to give an address even though its schedule was tight."

The Triennial General Assembly adopted the following resolution with specific reference to the legislation by Congress favored by AFN:

WHEREAS numerous member communes of the National Council of Churches have worked tirelessly for almost a century and the Orthodox Church has worked for over two centuries to assist the aboriginal people of Alaska to achieve basic economic and social justice under the law,

WHEREAS the natives of Alaska, Eskimo, Indian, and Aleut, have struggled valiantly against insuperable odds to a-

chieve a measure of equality and that social and economic justice can come to them only by the principle of self determination, compensation for land taken and lost to them, and ownership of land occupied and used by them from time immemorial,

WHEREAS the State of Alaska Council of Churches and numerous member communes have passed actions and resolutions supporting and encouraging the Alaska Native people and the land claims to areas rightfully theirs, stressing both the moral basis and the legal basis for the claims,

WHEREAS the United States Congress has the responsibility to settle the land claims by legislation, and has acknowledged such responsibility by prior ac-

tions and determination,

WHEREAS a just, equitable, generous and early settlement of these land claims, including the principle of revenue sharing, is required to meet the minimum requirements of social and economic justice for the 56,000 Alaska Natives so long deprived of many of their basic human rights through delayed justice and failure of the Congress to settle these claims,

WHEREAS the legislation introduced in the United States Congress for a settlement deemed adequate, appropriate, and just by the Alaska Federation of Natives groups would meet many of the needs and requirements of the Natives of Alaska in terms of health, education, welfare, education, employment and development through self determination,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the general assembly of the National Council of Churches support the early, equitable and just settlement to be provided by afore mentioned pending legislation, and urge member communes and their members to make known their support to their senators and representatives in the U.S. Congress.

Breaks with Governor

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"I'm very much concerned," he added, "that Congress won't act unless Alaska shows a little bit of interest."

"If there were any other group of 60,000 Alaskans clamoring for something they'd darn well be heard, but because they are Natives we try to brush them off."

Gov. Miller's administration had taken a hard line position against the AFN bill, widening the breach that already existed, about two weeks ago.

"I think the state government should do whatever it can to encourage Congress to enact a bill. The state can't do this by simply throwing its hands into the air and saying this is a federal problem," stated Thomas.

"I disagree," he continued, "with those who say the legislature—and I was there at the time—passed the bill only to remove the freeze. That's a cold-hearted, cynical attitude."

"I believe a majority of the legislators voted as they did because they wanted to encourage this long overdue settlement to hasten the day of justice for a large minority of Alaskans."

Sen. Thomas said he thought that the legislature should enact another law offering to share in the monetary settlement from a percentage of annual royalties, up to a maximum of at least \$50 million, "but I think we ought to double it. I think we ought to go up to \$100 million."

Thomas offered calculation that if the Prudhoe Bay oil field alone produces 2 million barrels per day between 1975 and 1990, the State of Alaska could realize \$3.5 billion in royalties even if the state royalty share stays at 12½ per cent.

He said the state contribution toward the claims would be something less than 3 per cent of the money coming to the state.

"I would imagine," Sen. Thomas said, "that by the turn of the next century Alaskans

will look back and feel that such a state contribution as this was a pretty good bargain for settling this tremendous question."

"I would predict that it would be as great a bargain as the purchase of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million."

Gov. Miller has been saying that he has no authority to agree to royalty sharing as proposed by the AFN. Sen. Thomas said the legislature in 1968 made it very clear that the state could do so.

Thomas quoted the Declaration of Intent of the act:

"... It is considered in the best interest of the state to make a reasonable contribution... by providing that certain royalties and shares of the proceeds derived from state lands be made available to Native groups in Alaska as compensation for relinquishment of part of their claims based on aboriginal use and occupancy..."

The law was passed when Walter J. Hickel was governor of the state and Keith Miller was Secretary of State.

The Anchorage Daily News article bylined by Stephen Brent, staff writer, added that "another section of the law (Chapter 177 of the Session Laws of 1968) directed the governor to create a seven-man Alaska Native Commission composed of at least four Natives to study, report, and expedite land claims."

"He was to appoint such a commission in April unless the federal government created a body substantially like it in the governor's judgment. And the chapter states that if Congress has not enacted land claims legislation by April 15, 1969, the commission is to become operable immediately."

Gov. Miller's spokesman has now said the Department of Law has advised the governor that the section became void when the Department of the Interior failed to lift the freeze.

Norb Skinner Shot...

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other man who had been sitting on his right in the front seat had also gone out.

Skinner started looking for a tire iron he usually had in the car but couldn't locate it. He decided instead to drive back to Fairbanks. He said the men were standing about 50 feet away when he drove off.

On the way, he felt something on the back of his head. He felt for it with his right hand and it was moist. There was blood on his hand.

"I realized then that I had been shot," Skinner said.

He decided to drive to the Fairbanks Community Hospital. He drove at a rather slow speed "so that if I happen to pass out, it would not be too bad."

"I was in the hospital for about 45 minutes," he said. "They x-rayed me and they seemed surprised."

"I asked the doctor," he continued, "if I could stay overnight at the hospital. He said I could if I wanted to. He said he detected no major damage and that it was up to me if I wanted to go home. So I went home."

Norb Skinner is a former legislator from District 15. He is 40 years old. He reflected on the tragedy this week in the following manner:

"I just regret the whole thing. I wish it had never happened because it causes problems. I have a lot of friends and they're all upset about it. Sometimes it seems to me it's harder to live

than to die. And that's about true. The windshield of my car is smashed by bullets."

"I was over to see Dr. Lundquist today," Skinner added this week. "He said I'm coming along miraculously well—so far no problems. I'd like to say that I'm extremely grateful to Dr. Lundquist and the hospital staff—the prompt treatment that they gave me."

Skinner's assailants were apprehended last Sunday in a motel in Fairbanks. Both under 20 years old, they are from the nearby Fort Wainwright. One is David Gene Becker, 18, H.Hc. USAG and Terry Morgan, 19, 808 A. Co.

The two men are accused of shooting Skinner four times at close range with a .25 caliber pistol.

"Also, that I am quietly and deeply proud of the Alaska State Police, especially Mr. Claude Swackhammer, investigator for the Alaska State Police and Capt. Steve McQueen and the other State Police who came at my request from the nurse."

"I think they should be given credit for prompt handling of the case even though handicapped by the huge interior area they have to cover."

"Perhaps," Skinner added, "this case points up to the fact that it is more important to go after the criminals than to concentrate too heavily on parking tickets."

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