

AFN Convention has surprises

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Natives to continue fighting for their share of the pie, and added:

"On conflicting issues, it is of course the duty of the leaders of each faction to press for the advantage. They can properly do no less; just as I can properly do no more than try to see that everyone is treated fairly."

Federation President Sam Kito, in a move which surprised some convention delegates, announced his resignation effective

February 1. The convention made no move to draft a replacement, but there was speculation that a representative of NANA Corp., or past AFN president Roger Lang would be likely candidates to fill Kito's shoes.

In his opening remarks, Kito briefly reviewed the organization's accomplishments over the past year, including Congressional passage of crucial amendments to the land claims act; the running battle with the federal

government over easements and trespass on Native-selected land, the settlement of a court case which paves the way for more local rural high schools and efforts to deliver college education to rural areas.

The convention proceeded without fanfare through its first two days. Workshops were an important feature of this year's convention, designed to bring delegates and government officials together to exchange views and information on a variety of statewide issues. The sessions included topics such as land resources, offshore oil development, technical assistance to Native groups, health and social services, telecommunications, education, employment and limited entry into Alaska's commercial fisheries.

The workshops revealed strong Native unity on such issues as easements across their lands, interim conveyances and subsistence hunting and fishing rights. The session on limited entry made it clear that this issue might be the one that could tear the convention apart. Hot debate broke out between limited entry opponents and supporters during the workshop.

The third day of the convention featured speeches by Alaska Senators Ted Stevens and Mike Gravel, Congressional Candidate Eben Hopson and former Interior Secretary Udall.

Senator Stevens cautioned that new legislators may be seated in the next Congress who are hostile to Alaska and urged Native people to help maintain state unity in Washington.

Senator Gravel, in addition to asking convention delegates to support Jimmy Carter for

President, called upon Native leaders not to ignore the social and human needs of Native people as they develop their economic power.

Udall recalled the birth of the Alaska Native movement and his own participation in the settlement, particularly his order which halted the disposal of public land in Alaska until Native claims were settled. He said, "We weren't very far down the road 10 years ago," and later added, "If the Native people had not developed political skills, you would never have been able to do what you did."

The Saturday afternoon session on resolutions required convention delegates to use some of that diplomacy and political skill.

Amid complaints that the entire system of introducing and acting upon resolutions is too cumbersome, delegates unanimously adopted 52 resolutions and passed another 21 by large margins. The resolutions dealt with alcohol abuse, protection of subsistence rights, education, manpower, land problems, justice in the bush and the acceptance of an Alaska Federation of Natives Youth Council. For over a year, the Council has sought official recognition from AFN.

The divisive issue of limited entry was tabled by the convention after a roll call vote.

The most dramatic action on the convention floor was the introduction of a resolution by Calista Corporation calling for a change in the method of selecting delegates and board members. The resolution stated that if AFN did not make the changes, Calista would pull out of the federation. Convention

delegates were momentarily stunned and quickly recessed to discuss the move.

Calista representative Fred Notti said, "We have 70 votes and one delegate; this is a sham as a convention, the people don't have a voice in it."

The resolution was eventually ruled out of order because the proposal did not conform to federation by-laws. Notti said Calista would push the issue at the next meeting of the AFN Board of Directors and if not satisfied with the results, pull out of AFN. A quick poll of delegates showed most regional corporations willing to consider a change in the method of selecting delegates and board members, but only through the regular mechanism of changing by-laws.

Given the uncertainty rising from Calista's move, and Kito's resignation, and the usual intensity of feeling that is part of any election year, convention delegates were stongly united on protection of their subsistence hunting and fishing rights and their desire to gain control over the land they have selected. The federation and its member organizations are already involved in litigation with the federal government over the land issue. It is probably essential that AFN, taking its cue from the subsistence resolution, organize statewide Native opinion on this issue before the end of the year, in order to speak to the new Congress with one voice.

HELP WANTED

COPPER RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 108
GLENNALLEN, ALASKA 99588

DATE: October 20, 1976

TITLE: Teacher - Junior-Senior High School Social Studies

RESPONSIBLE TO: Principal

QUALIFICATIONS: Certificated by the State of Alaska or qualified for certification, in secondary Social Studies.

EXPERIENCE DESIRED: An experienced teacher is desired, but all candidates will receive equal consideration.

SALARY: Base minimum \$13,400, benefits.

BEGINNING DATE OF EMPLOYMENT: November 22, 1976.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION: This position is responsible to the principal for teaching five 50 minute periods of social studies as assigned for grades 7-12. The individual courses and the content will be explained thoroughly to applicants selected for interview.

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Glennallen, Alaska 99588

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NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Alaska Election Code, as amended, and in conformity therewith, a general election will be held on Tuesday, November 2, 1976, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. for the purpose of electing candidates by direct vote for:

A UNITED STATES PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

A UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

TEN (10) STATE SENATORS

FORTY (40) STATE REPRESENTATIVES

And to vote on the following questions:

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124, 131, 168, 214, 239, 243, 247, 248, 270, 271

FOUR (4) CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

TWO (2) INITIATIVES: ADVISORY VOTE ON UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE and REPEAL OF LIMITED ENTRY

ONE (1) BALLOT MEASURE: CAPITAL SITE SELECTION

RETAINING (1) SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

RETAINING SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

RETAINING DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Location of polling places and precinct boundaries will be posted in three (3) places in each voting precinct in all election districts. Further information regarding polling places and precinct boundaries in Central Alaska is available at the Office of the Election Supervisor, Fairbanks Regional Office Bldg., 675 7th Ave., Fairbanks, Ak., 99701 (452-5111).

LOWELL THOMAS, JR.

Lieutenant Governor

Dated this 28th day of September, 1976.



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