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Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktatq The Aleuts Speak

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Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

BIA MAKES SWEEPING CHANGES

St. Paul Is. Hosts Important Conference

Representatives of State and Federal agencies and private industry are in the process of meeting on St. Paul Island this week to discuss various ways St. Paul could become more self sufficient—economically and politically.

The three day conference, which started Monday,ington, D.C. on behalf of the St. Paul Island Council.

To help their cause, they asked various state and federal and business representatives to visit St. Paul, see conditions on the island and personally talk with members of the village council and individual members of the community.

The major concern of the village council is economic. As of now, St. Paul's only major source of income is the fur seal industry.

Till 1950, the Aleutians of St. Paul and the other Pribiloff Island, St. George, were held in virtual servitude. They were paid in cans of corned beef, tea, coffee and other foodstuffs for the seal furs they harvested.

The end of this practice, and a 1966 law which gave the Aleutians the right to self rule, opened the door for island self sufficiency.

This week, the representatives are discussing plans for the orderly economic development of St. Paul, on a wider economic base than the fur seal industry alone.

Some of the plans which are to be discussed, according to BIA officer Gordon Tracy, include construction of a small boat harbor and a related fishing industry and expanded tourist operations. Mr. Tracy lived on (Continued on Page 6)

Land Freeze Extension Remains Big Question

Late Bulletin

Shortly before the paper deadline, Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., announced that the land freeze in Alaska has been extended for six months.

The order originated from the White House and reportedly with the concurrence of the Interior Secretary designate Rogers Morton.

By TOM RICHARDS, JR.

WASHINGTON — With the firing of Interior Secretary Walter Hickel last week, the big question which remains is whether his expected extension of the



ESKIMO GIRL IN ASIA—Jenny Alowa of Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island and a student at the Alaska Methodist University in Anchorage, is quite a distance away from home as she stopped to chat and pose with a man with a yoke on the streets of Bangkok, Thailand. Jenny worked as a guide at the Alaska pavilion of the Expo 70 in Osaka, Japan. After finishing work at the Expo, Jenny decided to see more of Asia before returning to AMU.

—JIMMY BEDFORD Photograph

Jim Bedford Meets Savoonga Eskimo Girl in Asia's Malaysia

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Although the following article by Jimmy Bedford was meant for Thanksgiving week (it came on Thanks-

giving Day mail), we are printing it for its unique interest. Jimmy is the member of the Board of Directors of the Tundra Times. A journalism professor, Bedford is on a sabbatical leave from the University of Alaska.)

(SPECIAL to the TUNDRA TIMES)

By JIMMY BEDFORD

BANGKOK, Thailand—With Alaska's small population, there is little likelihood of meeting a fellow Alaskan in some remote country like Malaysia—but that's where I met Jenny Alowa, 23, a St. Lawrence Island Eskimo now living in Nome.

"We were both traveling by train from Butterworth to Bangkok on the Thai international express and her seat was just across the aisle."

"Are you from Alaska?"

"So am I."

"Well, I'll be doggone."

The conversation went from there to inquiring about people we knew and how was so and so, until the rest of the passengers thought we were long lost friends.

Jenny was having the time

Alaska Area Director Reassigned to Wash., Other Changes Are Due

By MADELYN SHULMAN
Staff Writer

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Federal government's representative to the Indian and other Native people of the country, will soon see sweeping changes in its structure and personnel, according to Bureau sources in Washington.

New Bureau directives released this week outline a reorganization of the Bureau's senior personnel.

Under the directives developed by BIA Commissioner Robert Bruce, with the urging and concurrence of former Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel, the Bureau will rotate its area directors and other senior officers in the field periodically.

At the same time, changes in the decision making chain in the Bureau will centralize its operations in Washington. Local BIA offices will become technical service centers for local Native and Indian community groups, with red tape shortened at the area level.

The job of Superintendent, director of the local office in each area, has been renamed and redesigned in the new shuffle.

The new title of the office will be Field Administrator, with a job description similar to that of Office of Economic Oppor-

tunity Community Action Program administrator.

Present superintendents who have been in their jobs over three years will be rotated, as will all BIA staffers of grades GS-13 and above.

Rotations will start within 90 days and tribal organizations and councils in each district will be asked for their recommendations on replacements. These will weigh heavily in the final decisions.

In Alaska, Area Director Charles Richmond left Juneau this week for an indefinite assignment in Washington. His successor should be named within 45 days.

Many BIA officials in Washington hope to see Morris Thompson, special assistant on tribal affairs to former Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel, named to the post.

Thompson, an Athabascan Indian from Tanana, has been working with Hickel for the last year and a half. His closeness to Hickel, some fear, may prevent him from receiving pres-

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Egan Would Like Eben Hopson As Liaison Man

Among several Alaska Natives rumored to be prime candidates for the new state administration of Governor-Elect William A. Egan is Eben Hopson, Executive Director of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Questioned by the Tundra Times in Washington, Hopson commented, "It is not a secret any more, but there has been no final decision."

Hopson said that the new Governor had approached him and indicated that he was the prime candidate for a new high-ranking post of Liaison to the Governor on Native Affairs.

Hopson added that he had polled members of the AFN Board of Directors for their reaction. Some members discouraged him, he stated, on the grounds that he was needed by the Natives in his current post.

The veteran Native leader and former legislator recognized the new position as potentially very critical to Alaska Natives, stating that he still had the offer under consideration.

Native Leaders React to Hickel Firing

Reactions from some prominent Native leaders in Alaska to the firing by President Nixon of Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel ranged from dismay to hopeful optimism that present Interior policies may be continued on a number of issues vital to Alaskan Natives.

First and foremost in the concerns of most Alaskan Natives was the effect Hickel's firing would have on the land freeze, which is scheduled to end at the end of this year.

"Our major concern is the effect of Hickel's firing on our hope for having the land freeze extended administratively," commented John Borbridge, president of the Central Council of

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