

Fort Yukon justice system under scrutiny

(Continued from Page One) we can find him" Halverson said. The trooper's jail cell is six feet by 12 feet, with no furnishings; "just four walls, a ceiling, a floor and a door," the report said. The report goes into detail to describe a variety of problems emanating from Fairbanks, locally and area-wide. It notes that Fairbanks is the

location for many of the judicial and law enforcement services for Fort Yukon and villages surrounding it. The only state legal officials serving the area who are not at Fairbanks are the Fort Yukon state trooper and the part-time magistrate. Neither the State departments of Fish and Wildlife or the Corrections has personnel resident to the area.

The Alaska Court System's sole representative is Wilfred "Buster" Lamoureux, the part time magistrate at Fort Yukon, while John Addis is the only trooper.

"This situation places a great deal of pressure on Fort Yukon and the surrounding villages to handle their own affairs," the report said.

Recommendations of the committee include not only one that the magistrate's post be made full time, but that trials be held in villages as a matter of general court policy. Also that the magistrate be allocated sufficient travel funds to allow discretionary travel to the

villages without prior approval from Fairbanks.

To improve the system of corrections, the report proposes that the Department of Health and Social Services hire a probation aide from Fort Yukon or the surrounding communities to provide regular follow-up for probationers and parolees and to be a regular source of counseling for juveniles of these communities.

Also that a usable state or city jail be constructed in Fort Yukon.

To improve communications, it is recommended that the troopers work with villages in the Fort Yukon area to develop radio communication so villages can request trooper assistance directly.

The trooper himself should travel more frequently and on a regular basis to villages, that the trooper be trained specifically for bush duty and that the trooper live in Fort Yukon rather than at the Federation Aviation Administration station outside the city.

Briefly

David's beat Goliath
Two members of the "David and Goliath" coalition from the Sealaska Corporation defeated management candidates to win seats on the corporation's board of directors. Albert Kookesh of Angoon, a third year law student, and Joseph Wilson, president of the Juneau-based Goldbelt Corporation, were among six directors elected during the annual meeting last week.

Bethel attorney Christopher Cooke has been appointed to the superior court judgeship in the Fourth Judicial District. Cooke, a former VISTA lawyer and legal services attorney, is currently with the firm of Rice, Hoppner and Hedland. He is married to the former Margaret Nick of Nunapitchuk.

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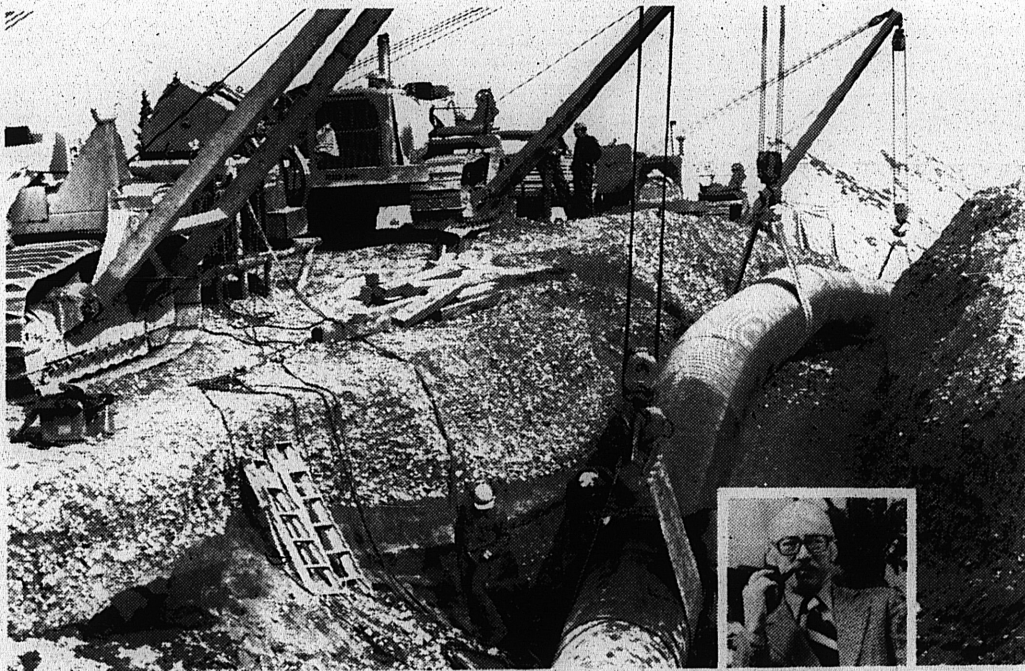
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