

Youth Club Needs Help from TT Readers

Many small villages in Alaska worry about whether there are enough activities and recreation

to keep the young people busy and happy.

One village has stopped wor-

rying and started doing something. Don Boston in Chistochina has helped the kids of that community form a Youth Club. The ambitious new group not only is going to see that the kids have plenty to do, they have their eyes on a building of their own.

They hope to build the building out of logs this summer, but they need help in getting funds for the flooring and roofing material.

The Club is now holding bake sales, raffles, and other activities to raise money. Tundra Times readers who would like to contribute should mail donations to:

Chistochina Youth Club
c/o Don Boston
Chistochina, Alaska

The Club would also welcome donations of games, sporting equipment, records, and building materials.

With a little encouragement and help the young people of Chistochina will have a new building by the end of summer, where they can hold dances, movies, and other activities.

Health Seminar . . .

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Alaska Methodist University and the Surgeon General's Office of the Alaska Command.

In a memo to the 12 regional corporations, Jack stressed the importance of the seminar.

"It is generally conceded that, in order for meaningful health services to reach the community level, the communities who receive those services must establish their own health needs and make basic decisions about health priorities," Jack said.

"In order to do that, community members must have adequate information upon which decisions may be made, this is what comprehensive health planning is all about, and is essentially what we hope to begin to accomplish with the April seminar.

"Hopefully, when communities have organized themselves to make decisions about establishing their own health priorities, the result will be that providers of health will actually deliver a better service and the total health of the local communities will be upgraded," he said.

Jack said there are also significant economic considerations to be made by Alaska Natives, as they discuss the delivery of health services in rural Alaska.

"The health industry in Alaska for example, is perhaps one of the top four or five, in terms of manpower utilization," he said. "Native groups and communities therefore have a vital interest in that industry as a potential resource for the utilization of Native manpower."

Health affairs advised regional groups to pick as their representative to the seminar the new 12-member health, education and social services board of AFN, Inc. This board will be setting policy for health affairs affecting Native people in the future.

"We think it may be important to select on the basis of interest in health matters," Jack said. "It is quite possible that at some future date, the various Native organizations will manage and deliver their own health services through their own established health entities"

The agenda is tentative, subject to approval of participants in the seminar, but at present, this is it:

The seminar begins the morning of April 26 with a tour of health facilities in Anchorage, including the greater Anchorage

Re D-2 Hearings—

Land Use Commission Issues Schedule

ANCHORAGE — The joint federal-state land use planning commission for Alaska has issued its schedule for hearings on management of public lands in Alaska.

The so-called "D-2" hearings involve the 80 million acres of public lands withdrawn in September of 1972 by Interior Secretary Rogers Morton as "national interest lands."

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act delegates to the Land Use Planning Commission the responsibility of making recommendations about planning and management of these lands.

The commission, in turn, is sending out questionnaires in advance of the hearings, to ask people what they think should be done with the lands, most of which Alaska's Native peoples have used in the past and much of which they use now.

Persons who want to give testimony at the hearings but are unable to attend, may submit written comments, no later than June 30, to the commission care of executive director Ted G. Bingham, 733 West Fourth Ave., Suite 400, Anchorage, 99501.

The commission said that because of a tight schedule, if bad weather prevents the commission from reaching a village, attempts will be made to reschedule that hearing . . .

There will be a time limit of 10 minutes for individuals testifying.

Firth . . .

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"Only a true northerner can articulate the different meanings the word development has for him. In the past, development has too often only presented a painful choice to northern residents; that of the opportunity to make a fast dollar or to oppose the destruction of their way of life.

"The whole problem comes down to one of attitudes. Big Government and big business, operate on the assumption that Northerners must adjust to their way of doing things.

"Until recently, Northerners had been bullied and conned into believing that people on the outside knew what was best for them. Now, Northerners are beginning to demand that outside interests adapt to the North and its people rather than the other way around.

"If Northerners are simply to continue to be given only token consultation in matters profoundly affecting their lives, the day is not too far off, when they are going to insist on full control of resources and development in their homeland.

"Finally, I would urge you to reconsider the make-up of the Task Force. If you are interested, I could suggest dozens of suitable candidates."

Miserly Bush Budget...

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schools from SOS to allow more concentration on rural needs.

A bill to finance a feasibility study for a Yukon River ferry system died, as did a proposal by bush legislator, Frank Ferguson, to require reimbursement for a Yukon-River to the Arctic Ocean road to be paid in full by participants in the trans-Alaska pipeline.

The single most significant piece of legislation may have been SB 39, a bill to regulate entry into commercial fishing. The bill hopes to stabilize the economic distress of fishermen by tighter management of resources, limiting the number of units of gear allowed in a specific area.

While some critics are uncertain whether the bill will, in fact, accomplish this goal, it will be a radical change for the industry.

"The only piece of hunting legislation we got passed," Hensley pointed out, "was the addition of two members to the State Fish and Game Board. Sackett's subsistence hunting bill passed the Senate but did not go through the House, and we'll be looking at it again next session, perhaps with some more revisions."

Hensley introduced a bill to limit professional guides to one hunting area, but the bill also

did not pass. "It was designed to protect game by not allowing high concentration of guides in only a few areas, depleting the game stock completely in certain over-hunted sections of the state," Hensley plans to reintroduce the bill next session.

Alaska State Housing Authority received 21.59 million in funds for construction. The bulk of the money will go to Anchorage projects, and also to Fairbanks, Sitka, and Seward.

"Nothing at all for bush housing," said Hensley.

The legislature turned down a pay raise for state employees, and failed to pass no-fault motor vehicle insurance.

In general, it was a quiet, unspectacular legislative session that reflecting tight budget concerns throughout. "It was very definitely an urban-controlled legislature," Hensley commented, but added, "It's going to become worse before it gets better."

The \$352.9 million budget finally approved by the legislature was only \$4 million dollars less than the governor had requested, but Senate Finance Committee Chairman Committee Chairman Cliff Groh, said, "Any time you come in with a figure lower than the governor's you've had an austere year."

Fall of Alaska Plan...

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We opened a gate for them and posted guards.

"The unions didn't want the job given to native people who were non-union. On the other hand, the natives were unhappy because they had been trying to get in unions for years and the unions wouldn't have them. Now suddenly, the unions were ready to admit them."

This situation was not unique to the state. All across the nation, minority groups were taking action to gain admittance to the unions, and the federal government was formulating equal opportunity programs for projects on which federal monies were being used.

States were given the option of accepting the federal plan or formulating "hometown" plans.

In February of 1971, a Minority Coalition was formed including representatives from AFN, the NAACP, the Filipino Club, the ANB, the Spanish Speaking Community, AIM, PRIDE, and many other organizations.

The Alaska Plan Committee began meeting weekly, minorities sitting down with unions and contractors. Many months later, these meetings resulted in a 33 page document called "The Alaska Plan".

Its stated goal was to "increase minority group employment in all phases of the construction industry in the Alaska area." More specifically, it set an objective of reaching, within each union, "a membership of minorities proportionate to the minority population in Alaska."

The goals were to be reached over a five year period, and as a result of cooperative efforts by all interested parties — labor, management, and the minority community.

Many of the unions already had strong, ongoing apprenticeship-training programs. A new program called Outreach came into being as a joint effort between labor and management. That same spring the State Department of Labor conducted an ALASKAN MANPOWER RESOURCES study in small communities, publishing a booklet for nearly every village in Alaska, listing available skills in each area.

The Tundra Times hailed the Alaska Plan, calling it "an action plan", and in May of 1972, the U.S. Secretary of Labor, James Hodgson, signed the Plan into being. All that was needed was the appointment of an executive director for the Plan, staff, offices, and funding to get it off the ground.

The Promise looked very bright. But by November of that year, the promise had begun to fade.

Senator Mike Gravel requested the Secretary of Labor to release funds for the Alaska Plan.

"The Nixon administration has held up funds for equal employment programs throughout the nation. Until these are released," said Gravel, "the Alaska Plan and similar plans in other states are at a virtual standstill."

"The Plan is worthless rhetoric unless the funds are there to support it," declared Gravel.

In December, Governor Egan signed an Executive order requiring that all State of Alaska construction projects utilize the goals and timetables established in the Alaska Plan. Hopes

went up again for the bright future.

Bob Willard, who had chaired the original Alaska Plan Committee, had continued to act as volunteer chairman until such time as a paid executive director could be hired.

Willard functioned with the help of an all-volunteer, unpaid committee. In January of 1973, a proposal was submitted for \$125,000 for implementing the Alaska Plan goals. No money was forthcoming.

Willard reported nothing but negative responses from the administration and from the Alaska Congressional delegation. But in spite of lack of funds, the unions were increasing the membership of native Alaskans and minorities.

In one year's time, the State government doubled its figures on native hire and more than tripled the number of blacks working for the state. People with other full-time jobs, worked to make the Alaska Plan a reality, money or no.

But disturbing rumors began to surface that the Alaska Plan had been compromised. Pat Mayo, permanent federal advisor on the Alaska Plan Committee and also head of the federal office of Equal Opportunity for the Alaska Region commented:

"I think what is meant by a compromise is that the Alaska Plan is non-functioning for lack of funding."

"The nearest move," she added, "is to seek other types of funding." If support is not forthcoming in the very near future, said Mayo "the Plan would be in serious jeopardy."

Bud Wadsworth, State Supervisor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, U.S. Dept. of Labor, described the situation:

"Here's labor and management sitting down under the auspices of the federal government in good faith."

"They sign the implementing regulation that comes along (the Alaska Plan), but they are never given the assistance agreed upon. The government has refused to fund it."

Page One of the Alaska Plan document states: "All parties to this agreement shall make every good faith effort to achieve the objectives outlined herein."

The history of the Alaska Plan shows much evidence of "good faith effort" on the part of many of the people who entered into the agreement as a result of that early confrontation in Valdez. Much has been done on a voluntary basis to bring the minority groups into the mainstream of Alaska construction.

Yet all the "good faith in the world" will not accomplish the objectives set forth in the Plan. America runs on dollars. The Alaska Plan must be funded or it will remain 33 pieces of paper with a fancy name.

NEXT WEEK: Part II — The Programs: Unions and management cooperate in job training and apprenticeship programs. A look at the state's skill centers. Alyeska's plan for native involvement in pipeline construction, and what the federal agencies are doing to help implement the Plan.

Part III — The Prognosis: Is the Alaska Plan working? Can the goals be achieved with no funding, no executive director, no staff, and no offices? Another look at the Promise.