

**"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire**

# Tundra Times



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## Editorial—

### Better to Be Ready

We don't like to be alarmists but the huge snowfall this year has gotten us a little worried. Up to now, the weatherman tells us, there is over 110 inches of snow in Fairbanks and if this were to melt there would be over six inches of water on the ground hereabouts. If it were to melt in a short time in an unseasonable warm weather say in May, it could mean trouble for Fairbanks. It is also very possible that we will get quite a few more inches of snow between now and the end of April.

The great amount of moisture in the form of snow in Fairbanks and around it will have to go some place. It could be that Mother Nature will be conducting it in a smooth even runoff and then she might not. This is where caution should enter. Our city fathers had better think about it. They have around 50,000 souls to worry about in the immediate area. This means planning. Civil Defense should perhaps begin to prepare to mobilize in the not too distant future.

While we're at it, we might even ask the proper federal and state agencies to start to check for flood potentials so the public will be notified of any danger in plenty of time.

It is better to be ready than to be caught short in times of emergency.

## Editorial—

### We Lost Jeane's Letter

The famous Jeane L. Dixon wrote us a warm and expressive letter a while back to which we obtained a permission from her to print in the Tundra Times. The letter got misplaced. The staff looked hard for it and failed.

At any rate, the letter impressed us that Miss Dixon is a warm person. Her wishes for the success of the Tundra Times were expressive and her words of compliment on what the newspaper was trying to do were heartwarming. Perhaps her apparent warm personality might have paved the way to her present job in the Office of the President in the department of Children to Children, Inc.

"I am highly complimented," Jeane wrote in her letter of permission, "...and happy to give you permission to publish my letter in the Tundra Times."

"Indeed," she added, "I hope you will add a little postscript with my best wishes for a Holy Christmas, and a Happy, Healthy New Year to your Staff and all your Readers!"

## UA TV Station Given Green Light

The University of Alaska television station has been given the go-ahead to purchase equipment with its available funds.

Use of the UA funds was OK'ed after the station received word from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare that its recent \$441,402 grant application has been received and has passed preliminary study.

Don Upham, Television Coordinator, commented that an application made at the same time to the Federal Communications Commission for a construction permit has been accepted for filing by that agency and is now under active consideration.

According to University of Alaska television Chief Engineer, Richard Dowling, "The items

presently being purchased with available funds are electronic support equipment to aid in the synchronization, routing, distribution and testing of the television station's video and audio signals.

The major equipment purchases such as the studio cameras, transmitter, video tape recorder, film camera and projectors will be made later."

Transmitter construction for the UA television station is expected to begin by April 1 and regular programming is scheduled to start by September 1.

The station, which has applied to the FCC for use of channel 9, will broadcast in color a full range of public affairs, cultural, and informational programs which are available only to non-commercial television stations.

## Public Defender's Agency Provides Lawyers for Those with No Funds

By MADELYN SHULMAN  
Staff Writer

(Second in a two part series on legal services in the villages.)

"We don't get that many bush cases, not nearly as many as we should," says Dick Madsen, head of the Fairbanks public defenders agency.

This agency, a state funded agency under the office of the governor, is responsible for providing the right to counsel for people who can't provide their own lawyer. Besides Fairbanks, the three lawyers and one investigator on the staff of the agency must handle cases arising in Bethel, Fort Yukon, Galena, and all their surrounding villages.

Recent Supreme Court decisions have given the right to counsel (the right not to be tried without a lawyer) to persons accused of many misdemeanors. So far, no line has been set as to how minor a crime a person can be accused of and still be entitled to court appointed counsel.

However, many crimes now tried in magistrate's court may come under these new definitions. If so, the Fairbanks' public defenders office will have to expand greatly to handle the new caseload.

"We can't afford to hire someone in each village," says Madsen. He advances several reasons why



FAIRBANKS PUBLIC DEFENDER head Dick Madsen demonstrates the gavel his office is presenting as a gift to newly appointed Sitka Superior Court Judge Vic Carlson. Carlson is a former head of the public defender's agency.

—MADELYN SHULMAN Photograph

his office is rarely called to handle cases in the magistrate courts. When notified, a lawyer from the public defender's agency will fly out to represent an accused person in court—if somebody calls them.

"When they are accused of something, many people in the villages are inclined to admit it," says Madsen. "Also, many really don't understand their rights, or

the concept of the adversary system."

One of these rights is the right not to be tried by a magistrate, to call in a district judge. For many people, turning down the authority figures in the village to request an outsider seems a large request.

"Magistrates aren't trained lawyers," explains Madsen. "It

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## Native Corporations Conflict...

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Each worker employed means a kickback for the Native association. Jimmy Hoffa tried this and he's now in the Federal pen. The groups claim they have these rights under tribal law, that labor law doesn't apply. Charters can't be based on race."

"The Native Associations mean well," Orbeck continued, "and are determined to increase opportunities for their people. But, they will have to do things according to the law when they are competing with contractors who pay regular wages."

"They can do things like have their men work for straight time on Saturdays and Sundays, not pay regular wages, etc."

Orbeck told the group of Fairbanks newsmen that his International has adopted the position of holding off and trying to negotiate with Native groups, rather than sue or picket.

In a recent case in Fairbanks, he said, where the Laborer's Union protested, 35 Athabaskan Indians were hired for a road job. Eskimo members of his union, he complained, were denied jobs because they weren't Athabaskan Indians.

The Laborer's Union is about 40 per cent white, 40 per cent Native and 20 per cent other. Under recent OEO rulings, Orbeck said, contractors on federal jobs are instructed to hire minorities in the areas in which the contract is being completed.

The Supreme Court has ruled that a white in Kotzebue is a minority, he told the group.

"This isn't the intent of the law," Orbeck complained.

Orbeck and the representatives of the three other unions who spoke told the group the alarming extent of unemployment in the Fairbanks and Northern Alaska area.

Ernie Miller, who represents local 302 of the Operating Engineers, said 90 per cent of the union's members are presently employed. Thirty per cent

of the members of this union are Alaskan Natives.

Joe Marshall, who represents the Cement Finishers and the Pipefitters Unions also presented alarming statistics of 90 per cent unemployment.

"Unemployment is the worst this year that it's been since I came to Alaska many years ago," said Marshall.

With many men having come to Alaska from the lower 48 looking for work on the pipeline and the road, unemployment lines downtown were reported by Marshall to extend out the door of the Fairbanks Manpower Center.

Usually, reports Marshall, at least 50 per cent of his men are working through the winter.

Starting dates on pipeline work depend on how fast the Native Land Claims bill is passed in Congress, the land freeze is lifted, rights of way are established and the preliminary work on preparing and coating

the pipe is completed.

"Due to the Native Land Claims and other factors, I can't see how pipeline work can start before September or October of next year (1971)," reports Ernie Miller of the Operating Engineers in Fairbanks.

Unemployment problems in Alaska are being increased, union leaders said, by people from the lower 48 who believe work is available in Alaska.

"I've seen advertising in the Great Falls, Montana newspaper for men to come to Alaska to work on the pipeline," reported Miller.

Joe Marshall reported calls he'd received in his union office from as far away as Honolulu from people who want to come to Alaska to work on the pipeline."

"The misinformation is uncontrollable," he said.

Marshall has been mentioned as a possible future Labor Commissioner in Fairbanks.



LABORERS UNION head Ed Orbeck argues the case of Fairbank's unions to a meeting of the Farthest North Press Club. To his right is Joe Marshall of the Cement Finisher's Union. Ernie Miller, head of Local 302 of the Operating Engineers appears on the left. Behind the speakers is a mural depicting Second Avenue before World War II.

—MADELYN SHULMAN Photograph