

The Native Nation...

(Continued from page 1)

this might be an impossibility, but that if people won't accept the native people as they are, the leadership was hoping that in a period of time the natives will be able to maintain their own communities and self respect.

He stated that this would be dependent on whether or not the AFN was successful in obtaining a favorable land settlement that will allow the people to do things for themselves.

"We want to feel," Hensley concluded, "that we can become a part of the state, but are we ever really going to be? We may not have any other choice but to do what Emil says."

EBEN HOPSON

Eben Hopson, executive director of the Arctic Slope Native Association, when notified about Emil Notti's statement at first joked mildly about it.

"What does he mean by the western half of Alaska?" he asked. "Maybe he's just excluding southeast Alaska. In that case, it will be the Eskimo nation!"

"I really don't know," he continued, "just how to react to that, but I'm sure whether we endorse Emil Notti's system of forming an Indian nation in Alaska—I'm sure there will be some type of reaction from all quarters of Alaska."

Hopson said he had already indicated the strong feeling of the Arctic Slope to the AFN general counsel in Washington, D.C. and also to Sen. Henry M. Jackson on meeting him in Seattle.

"If the provisions of the AFN bill were cut up too badly, as far as trying to get a settlement through Congress is concerned, the native leadership is going to switch to a more radical, militant type leadership."

Hopson thinks that the present leadership is capable of becoming more positive and strong in making statements. He said that although the leadership doesn't like expressing desire to become violent, there is bound to be some reaction that will have to be faced "if we fail too badly in Congress."

Hopson said of Emil Notti: "It took him a long time to express himself in this manner, after a couple of years of advocating a settlement, and my own feeling is that they took all this time to perhaps fall into the same line that the Arctic Slope Native Association has been advocating all the time."

ALFRED KETZLER

Alfred Ketzler, deputy director of the AFN and president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, mainly dwelt on the Anchorage Times editorial, "A Bad Comparison," which appeared last Monday.

"I agree with Emil," was the initial reaction of Ketzler.

The Anchorage Times has in the past consistently opposed the AFN proposal for native land claims settlement editorially and through the writings of W.C. Arnold.

Last Monday's editorial said in part:

"... There is much in favor of the native cause. But Mr. Notti's speech Saturday to an Indian gathering in Washington state impaired the bright hopes we all share in behalf of our native citizens."

"I don't agree with their line of reasoning," stated Ketzler. "They can't seem to remember from one day to the next what their position is."

"Emil was speaking for the federation. As leader of the organization, he speaks with the authority of AFN."

"I think the statement was designed to shake them up and I think it has done a good job. It

made the Anchorage Times change their stand. Before, they were saying we were trying for a terrible settlement. Now it's a just settlement and Emil is off."

JOHN BORBRIDGE

John Borbridge, first vice president of the AFN and president of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians, said he doesn't fully agree with Notti's statement.

"... But I can appreciate his reasons and very frankly, in my mind, Emil has accomplished part of his objective—he has everybody talking about the land claims and the concern of the natives. From that viewpoint—objective accomplished," he observed.

"My reaction," Borbridge continued, "basically is that Mr. Notti's statement was made to dramatize the deep concern of the Alaska natives relative to their desire to have the Congress of the United States treat us with justice and equity."

"I think that in making it, Mr. Notti was in effect utilizing the form which was available to him in Tacoma to, perhaps, dramatically focus not only on the need for justice, but perhaps the irony that in some ways it might be easier for a foreign nation to borrow money from the United States than it might be for the aborigines, the first Alaskans, and in effect the first citizens of the United States to have justice and equity done to them."

Borbridge said that too often justice for the natives has been measured in terms of what it might cost the United States and what it might cost all of us if justice is not done.

"I feel compelled," he went on, "at the same time to say that I'm fully cognizant of the fact that we have many, many long time Alaskans who have stood firmly by us as others learn of the basic background of the claims and as they slowly, and perhaps reluctantly, acknowledge that there is indeed a valid claim that can stand up either in court or in any other form."

"These Alaskans are gradually rallying to the cause. For this reason, while I recognize the motivation for focusing on the land claims, I think that inadvertently it does an injustice to many of our good friends in Alaska who are going to be right in there giving us their support, and their understanding as the land claims reaches fruition through the passage of the bill in the Congress."

"I would conclude with this. . . I think that for many people it would be easier, perhaps, if the natives would consider withdrawing in separatism. But I personally don't want to give either our fellow Alaskans or our fellow citizens in the United States an easy out."

"I intend, as a representative of our people to stay in this fight and to compel our fellow citizens to look squarely at this issue, and to have them realize that we are not going to back off—that we are going to stay firmly in this battle to receive acknowledgement from them. This is a cause that deserves their support."

"The fact is, it isn't just the natives who need justice but it is the non-natives who need a strong sense that when they were tested they stood firm and asked for justice for their fellow citizens, the first Alaskans."

"I think it's good for elements of the population to realize that we can differ—differ in a philosophical sense, but I do not differ on the objectives to which bind Mr. Notti, myself and the rest of the leadership very closely. In other words, we are not talking about whether we agree on the land claims or the objectives."

Rural Libraries Bill in Hopper

A bill providing for the construction and equipping of rural libraries was introduced into the House last week by Representative Donald E. Young, R-Ft. Yukon.

Passage of the bill would make \$250,000 available to rural communities for library construction. All communities that are not

first or second class cities with populations greater than 2,000 are eligible to participate.

The money would be distributed on a ninety-ten basis. Ninety per cent would be supplied by the state and ten per cent would be supplied by the community. The communities ten per cent share could be in cash,

land, or services.

Representative Young said, "Rural libraries are important sources of information for rural residents because of the lack of mass communications in the rural areas. These libraries will supplement and upgrade education there."

Special Fares

In order to encourage travel to the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous Feb. 13-22, there will be special reduced round trip fares from 21 far-flung outlying points on the Wien Consolidated Airlines system.

The announcement was made by A.E. (Bud) Hagberg, vice president-marketing. He said the special rates would be effective Feb. 11 through 24.

Samples of the round trip reductions are: from Iliamna, \$45; Nome and Kotzebue, \$93; Barrow, \$130; Aniak, \$81; Dillingham and Galena, \$75; Ft. Yukon, \$78; Fairbanks, \$55; Juneau and Whitehorse, \$100; and King Salmon, \$58.

Back Claims...

(Continued from page 1)

ton state and Alaska are like brother and sister with the same problems and must protect the rights of the individual worker in both states.

The unions are as follows: Sailors Union of the Pacific; National Maritime Union of America; Operating Engineers local 302; International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots of the West Coast, locals 6 and 19; Inland Boatmen's Union of the Pacific and Boilermakers local 104.

Oil Lease Offers...

(Continued from page 1)

long existing native allotments and other designations that may indicate settled areas.

During the oil land boom in the second half of 1968, "Many if not all, lease operators," he wrote, "made no effort to ascertain whether or not the land was occupied before entering an Offer to Lease."

It was at this time, he added, that over 20 million acres of land were covered by Offers to Lease.

Secondly, he charged that, contrary to the federal regulations previously cited, most, if not all, of these offers do not have an idea where their Offers were located.

The Federal public lands of Alaska, he added, are not surveyed excepting those having final survey acceptance on the official records of the BLM.

Thirdly, Utermohle charged that "the operation of the Department of Interior land offices in Alaska in the latter part of 1968 was not conducted in the orderly procedure intended by the Congress of the United States."

Due to the situations created by the land freeze, that "enabled speculators to gain title and continue to hold this title on millions of acres of potential oil lands without them paying a single cent, a 'Land Grab' was perpetrated," he said.

Thus, he contended that not only do these offers fail to comply with federal regulations as previously discussed, but also the situation represents the loss of "millions and possibly billions of dollars to the taxpayers of the United States."

Utermohle, who has a B.S. degree in Geology and a masters degree in geography, seems to be directing his effort to future, not past, oil and gas leases.

In citing his reasons for making the protest, Utermohle stressed that he will derive no monetary benefit from any results of the protest.

Rather the protest was made, he said, because the granting of any lease not complying with federal regulations will: "1. represent appropriation of public lands and resources of the United States. 2. Will in effect deny the settlers and native peoples of Alaska the protection established by Federal Regulations and 3. A priority issued in lieu of a lease will constitute a Federal government "loophole" requiring the State of Alaska to issue non-competitive leases on certain lands to be selected by the State of Alaska at a future date."

Notti's Tacoma Speech

(Continued from page 2)

for a people who have lost a whole continent.

So that this does not appear to be a litany of sins against us, there are some bright spots. The National Council of Churches, representing 46 million people unanimously endorsed our position. Walter Reuther's UAW has endorsed our bill. Churches, particularly in the state of Washington have contributed funds for us to carry on our fight. I think by and large, fair-minded Americans would support us if they heard our story. Both the Senate and the House committees have strong support for our position. In particular, Senator Jackson is concerned with time running out on the land freeze and he is determined to get a fair bill out of his committee. We appreciate that, but if it is to happen this year, it must immediately become a priority piece of legislation.

Let me just finish by saying that a fair settlement will reflect well on all Americans. It will help build a better society in Alaska, and will benefit us all, including those living in Washington state. From a national point of view, it is a chance for Congress to write a happy last chapter as we close the book on the acquiring of Indian lands for American expansion.

Gov. Egan

(Continued from page 1)

Adequate housing and sewage facilities for these areas should have commanded high priority in considering the actual needs of 1970.

Egan spoke in support of state financial participation in the land claims settlement and added that he hoped the administration would "favorably consider" such legislation if enacted by the State Legislature.

"It seems incongruous to me," he said, "that a leader who in 1968 was the second highest official of the state and who was unquestionably a top advisor and counsel to the then governor, would bluntly close the door to an early settlement of the vexing problem of the native land claims."

In 1968 the Hickel-Miller administration, Egan explained, supported legislation which authorized payment of \$50 million to the natives if the land freeze had been lifted by October 1968.

Also, Egan briefly called for state support of a satellite information distribution system that will enrich the educational field and communications generally.

The candidate is expected to be going against Democrat Larry Carr of Anchorage in the August primary, although Carr, owner of a supermarket chain, has not officially announced his candidacy yet.

On the Republican side, the Governor Keith H. Miller has already announced that he will seek another term in office.

A gubernatorial candidate in 1966, Egan was defeated by the former Republican Gov. Walter J. Hickel. Miller was appointed to the seat when Hickel became Secretary of the Interior for President Richard Nixon.

Take Alaska in Alaska



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AIRLINES