

Belli Confers with Indians on Oil Suit

Melvin Belli, famed California lawyer, journeyed to Anchorage last weekend to confer with the leaders of Nondalton-Lime Hills Indians on their lawsuit against eight major oil companies.

Belli has filed a trespass action against the oil companies saying that the natives of that area had possession of the lands prior to oil interests taking over. He said in effect the companies "have come into the natives' living

room and told the natives to move out."

Belli explained that the lawsuit does not raise the issue of who owns the lands, but only who has better rights to possess the land. He said that to oust the oil companies, the natives do not have to show that they own title to the land but only that their right to possession came prior in time to that of the oil companies.

Belli said that the native land claims in Alaska are different than those of the Indians in the Lower 48 because in Alaska there is a different treaty with Russia; that Alaska does not have reservations generally like those in other states.

He pointed out that now the government has the money from oil resources so a special tax would not have to be imposed upon the people to pay for the claims.

"Now is the best time to settle the native land claims issue because we now have the money," Belli said. "Congress should be aware that the natives were here and the oil companies moved in."

He said the natives were bringing their grievances to the court. If the court cannot give them relief, Congress will then realize that the only relief available is through legislation.

A good habit to get into.



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Tough Tall Totem Tiff Troublesome To State of Alaska and California

Alaska Commissioner of Economic Development, Frank H. Murkowski, has issued the latest broadside in the continuing War of the Tall Totems.

"Mr. Paul Richards, Executive Director of the Humboldt Council Chambers of Commerce has made the statement that their totem pole in McKinleyville, California is the tallest in the world," said Murkowski.

"I don't doubt that the structure is 160 feet tall," he said, "but I do maintain that our 132 foot totem is the tallest AU-

THENTIC pole in the world and that theirs is not truly Indian art.

"The Alaska pole was designed by the Indian residents of Kake, Alaska and carved by Indians at Port Chilkoot, Alaska. It is now on loan to our Department for exhibit at Expo '70 in

Japan next year. After Expo '70 it will be returned to its owners, the people of Kake."

Murkowski concluded by saying, "it may be necessary to have an impartial panel of Indians decide this issue. After all, they're the experts."

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State Travel Poster Wins Top Honors

A State of Alaska travel poster has won top honors in a worldwide tourist industry competition.

The full-color poster was voted best-in-show at the recent 39th World Travel Congress of the American Society of Travel Agents in Tokyo.

Alaska's entry, featuring a color photograph of a sunburst over a mountain peak, was submitted by the Travel Division of the State of Alaska's Department of Economic Development. The poster was a product of the Division's advertising agency, Murray, Kraft & Rockey of Anchorage.

The Alaska poster won the government tourist offices' category on the way to its overall-winner selection. Other category winners included Japan Air Lines, Italian Line, Hilton International Hotels, and the Swiss National Railways.

Japanese Firm Wants Tall Girls For Basketball

There's a strong possibility, Governor Keith Miller's Tokyo office has been advised, that if two Alaska girls desire to live and work for two years in Japan, residing in a Japanese girls' dormitory, they might well be able to obtain employment in the offices of one of the country's leading lumber companies.

Yoshio Katsuyama, Director of Alaska's Tokyo office, said he had been approached on the subject by a leading Japanese industrialist.

Noting that the company sponsors a girl's basketball team, Katsuyama closed his resume of the girls' requirements by saying the industrialist "would prefer them tall."

Any tall girls interested in playing basketball in Japan may contact the Commissioner's Office, Department of Economic Development, for further details.

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