



SHRIVER SEES TRAGIC POVERTY

Trip Impresses Congresswoman Julia Hansen

Energetic Congresswoman Julia Hansen of the State of Washington made a whirlwind tour of Alaska during the last few days.

She visited the village of Minto and came back to Fairbanks much impressed with its chief, Peter John.

"Peter John has ideas of what he wants and he comes right out with them," Mrs. Hansen said.

She said that the Indian people she met in the interior were frank, open as well as thoughtful. There was no difficulty in communications because they all spoke English. "I was delighted with their responses," she stated.

She also said that Chief Peter John was not very happy about not getting paid for supervising the Neighborhood Youth Corps program workers in the village.

"I'll have to talk to Sargent Shriver about that," she said.

Mrs. Hansen is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations that funds 20 bureaus including

(continued on Page 4)



WELCOME MR. VICE PRESIDENT!—Hubert Humphrey, vice president of the United States, visits A '67 at Fairbanks on his way home from Korea, Tuesday. At the Native Village, he watched Eskimo dances and took his place at the rope for the blanket toss. Villagers presented him with a carved ivory bear and a walrus bracelet.

Says Native Poverty As Appalling As Any in the World

By SHEILA TURNER

"The poverty in Alaska is as deep, tragic and appealing as any in the world," Sargent Shriver told a group of new VISTAs at the University of Alaska Wednesday.

"I have never seen any lack of material resources greater than in Alaska."

Shriver, the director of the United States, office of Economic Opportunity, spent three days this week inspecting village conditions.

He visited Bethel, Unalakleet, Mekoryuk, Galena, Nick O'Nick's Fishing Village, Alakanuk and King Island Village outside of Nome.

Shriver says four days is not enough time to come up with any grand plans, but he is thinking of sending a special task force to Alaska to take another look at OEO programs here.

At this point he envisions greatly expanded, reorganized services.

A similar new look at the state of Mississippi resulted

in expanded programs there. "In order to solve problems you have to get down to its roots," Shriver told the VISTAs. "That's going to upset some people."

"Any change upsets someone. You have to be bright enough and tough enough" to carry through.

Shriver pointed out that many of the poor do not have equal opportunities, particularly in the areas of justice, health and education. "We're trying to close that inequality gap," Shriver said. "There's no longer any need for anyone to be poor in 20th Century America."

He cited the new legal services started in many states including Alaska to help poor people get fair trials and to prevent them from being swindled.

He disclosed a new neighborhood health center program that will enable the

(Continued on page 6)

Sen. Bartlett Calls for Improved Monitoring on Radioactivity

WASHINGTON—Senator E.L. (Bob) Bartlett has called for improved monitoring of radioactive particle levels in the Arctic. An Atomic Energy Commission survey of three Alaska native villages—Anaktuvuk Pass, Arctic Village, and Ambler has revealed seasonal increases in the natives' "body burden" of Cesium 137, a radio-nuclide produced by atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons.

Apparently the cesium isotope is picked up by lichen and transmitted by way of caribou which feed on the plant, to man. The recorded amount of radioactivity in the body tends to increase during the season when caribou is an important part of the diet, Dr. C.L. Dunham of A.E.C. explained.

The problem, Senator Bartlett pointed out on the Senate floor, is lichen are long lived and pick up more fallout year after year.

"With the test ban treaty, it is true, absolute levels of fallout have decreased, but with China stepping up her atmospheric testing, this trend may well be reversed," Bartlett said.

Senator Bartlett told the Senate that the AEC report must serve as "a warning and move us to continued vigilance and remedial efforts."

"We still know almost nothing of the long-term effects of radiation exposure

on population groups or about what measures might be taken to alleviate its effects," the senator said. "We must continue and refine our efforts at surveillance. We must train more specialists in the

(Continued on page 8)

Nicholls Asks Navy to Clean Up Famous Archaeological Area

The town of Barrow is on a clean up campaign. And it wants the United States Navy to follow its example.

"The ancient village site of Birnirk and the adjacent and still used shooting grounds are inundated by junk," Hugh Nicholls wrote to Senator Ernest Gruening last week.

The area, under reserve to the Navy for its Barrow installation, has been used as a dumping ground. Nicholls, executive director of the Arctic Slope Native Association, asked Gruening to exert pressure to get the proper Navy bureau to clean the area up, monument its corners and "protect this famous and valuable archaeological area from being lost to the heritage of man's progress."

"The same accumulation of rusting parts, wire rope, bent and twisted girders is also slowly forcing our people from the adjacent tenting and camping area, where for untold centuries they have traditionally hunted waterfowl," Nicholls reported.

"The NASA site is practically in the midst of the camp area," he pointed out. It is tolerated because it does not interfere with the camp. "But the accumulated junk of the area is hard to compensate for."

Nicholls said the situation was brought to the attention of the National Parks Division of B.L.M. but they said that though Birnirk is an Historical Site, it is under prior reserve to the Navy.

Research Zeroes in on Bush Viable Economy

"Viable" is fast becoming a red-letter word for Alaskan bush communities.

To the economist, a viable town is growing or has an economic potential. To the native community, being viable means the difference between getting federal funds for self-help under the Native Housing Bill or dying out.

Few native communities qualify today as viable areas. Young men leave to find work and don't come back. The postmaster is just about the only person in the village employed year-around.

How does a community become viable? The University of Alaska's Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research has received two grants to study this question.

The first grant was awarded by the Department of Commerce for a "Northwest Alaska Regional Development Study."

"Under this project, the natural and human resources of northwest Alaska will be analyzed and courses of action recommended for the area," said Victor Fischer, institute director.

"The study is designed to assist the federal field committee in its planning activities. We think this overall approach will bring

the best results and see this type of study applied to every region of Alaska."

The Institute is asking natives for help in making the study and in deciding policies and programs.

(continued on Page 4)

Oil Firms May Start Multi-Exploratory Well Program

Though some people are trying to write off the possibility of drilling for oil in the Arctic, several companies still are thinking about it.

The Alaska Scouting Service, a division of Petroleum Publications, Inc., reports that an attempt to initiate a multi-exploratory well program may get started by the end of summer.

Under the program, about a dozen major oil companies will drill nine wells in a area under lease on the Arctic Slope. The project, called "Ungoonuk," will use two rigs over three years to drill the holes, ranging from 4,000 to 12,000 feet in depth.

In other developments, Pan American Petroleum Corp. this week started building a road to its Albert S. Kaloa Jr. No. 1 well.