

Eskimo Political Savvy at Democratic Convention

By FRANK MURPHY
FAIRBANKS—Last weekend Fairbanks was the site of a very quiet revolution. "Bush Power" became a reality in the Democratic Central District Conven-

tion. There was no shouting or waving of fists but everyone could feel its might.

A well organized, well disciplined delegation from House District 14, the lower Yukon

and Kuskokwim delta area managed to propose to the convention and then pass a list of proposals and amendments which were aimed at solving the problems of their area.

For years the so-called "bush districts," House Districts No. 13, 14 and 15 were either not represented at the convention or represented by a handful of delegates with a raft of proxy

votes from those not able to attend.

This usually meant that very few proposals would deal with bush problems and that the

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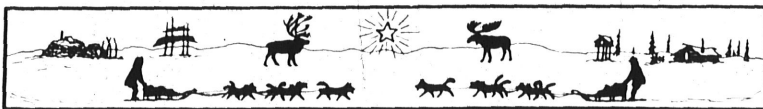
Tundra Times

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Inupiat Patot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak



Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

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REP. MOORE MAY SUE STATE

Part of Moore's Regional High School Money Used for Other Projects

By LAEL MORGAN

JUNEAU — In 1971, Rep. Martin Moore of Emmonak got the state legislature to appropriate \$2,625,000 for construction of a regional high school in his area. That was quite a feat for a freshman legislator but Moore returned to Juneau this session to find a hollow triumph.

Despite a clear letter of intent from the lawmakers, the State Department of Education had cancelled plans to build the school and used all but \$1.4 million of Moore's appropriation on other projects.

"The decision was apparently made back in November. Marshall Lind, commissioner of Education, didn't know anything about it because he was only recently appointed," Moore said. "The department told me that the people in my area had changed their minds. That they wanted area schools instead of a regional facility."

"I told the department to divide what money there was left and build two area schools and that I would bring a law suit against them if they didn't. Then I got excused from a call of the House and went home to hold hearings."

He discovered that his people had indeed changed their minds. That they were tired of having their children shipped hundreds, even thousands, of miles away for secondary education and that they wanted high schools in their villages.

It was an angry Martin Moore that returned to Juneau.

"The state got over \$900,000,000 (in recent oil lease sales) and we Natives are still living in the same conditions we've always been in," he pointed out. "I find people in Anchorage worried about sending college students outside... Well, what about our young children?"

Moore is in no mood for compromise and he has stated flatly that if the state fails to provide village schools he will sue the Department of Education on behalf of his District 19 and stop all state school construction until the problem is solved.

This is Moore's first venture into politics. He never had much of a chance at an education, speaks English as a second language and is not much of an orator on the House floor. But there's a growing respect for his political skill.

Moore is a member of the Bush Caucus which was formed last year by legislators from rural areas. The development of this coalition roughly parallels

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FIRST BI-LINGUAL CONVENTION — Barry Jackson, permanent chairman of the Democratic Central District Convention, introduces State Representative Martin Moore, D-Emmonak, who

addressed the delegates in Eskimo in the Fairbanks convention hall.

—Photo by FRANK MURPHY

Utilities Commission Hearing on RCA Bush Phones

Want to phone a friend in Nanapitchuk, say hello to the folks in Goodnews Bay or find out how the weather is in Egegik?

All this was seen as a near possibility when RCA Alascom laid the foundations for a multi-million dollar program to bring telephone service to the bush.

In 1971 the first central service station in this massive network was erected in Bethel to provide dial telephone communications for 19 communities. Optimistic projections hoped to put a public telephone in each of the 142 villages throughout the

state. Plans to extend the service to another 25 communities, establishing twenty more central service stations, would have furnished vital communication links to nearly every duly constituted community with a population of 25 or more persons.

Anchorage Daily Times Backs Our Times' Editorial

The Anchorage Daily Times in an editorial dated April 6, urged Congress to take prompt corrective action on further revision of the sea mammal legislation now in the works on Capitol Hill.

The Anchorage paper states: "We want to align ourselves with the Tundra Times, the fine Native newspaper published in Fairbanks."

Quoting directly from Editor Howard Rock's March 29 editorial in the Tundra Times which pointed out that the legislation dealt "with the very lifestyle of the Eskimos," the Anchorage paper commented that the "Alaskan lifestyle is being twisted and turned by distant forces—whether it involves development, or pipelines, or walrus tusks, or even national defense forces within the state."

"The pipeline headaches may be far too complex to be resolved quickly and easily," said the editorial. "The sea mammal problem isn't."

vice stations, would have furnished vital communication links to nearly every duly constituted community with a population of 25 or more persons.

However, the best laid plans of even RCA "oft gang astray." Last week, the Alaska Public Utilities Commission instituted an investigation of RCA Alaska Communications, Inc., concerning the manner in which it has been implementing this program.

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Enrollment Progresses--

Three Interior Villages Complete Their Rolls

The momentous task or enrollment of all Alaskan Natives under the Land Claims Act is in full swing throughout the state this week.

Lucy Carlo, enrollment director for the Tanana Chiefs Conference, reported that enrollment has been completed in three rural villages of her region, Bettles Field, Canyon Village, and Birch Creek, and the remaining villages were expected to complete their rolls by the end of this week.

On a few occasions, village enumerators have checked back to regional headquarters for clarification and, from time to time, a call to Anchorage was neces-

sary for a final understanding of procedure.

By and large, however, Miss Carlo said enrollment was proceeding smoothly and she gave credit to the three-day training session conducted in Fairbanks. The enumerators, she said, were working very conscientiously to meet their deadline.

Asked what aspect of the forms most people found confusing, Miss Carlo said the most recurrent error of understanding was that many people had the misconception that they had to physically and literally return to the region in which they wished to enroll, in order to be enrolled there.

This is not the case, she stated emphatically. You can enroll in your native region from as far away as the lower 48 or Viet Nam without returning there.

The forms can all be completed by mail, or assistance can be obtained through any region's enrollment office for applying in another region.

Many questions have pertained to adoption situations. There have been many, many adoptive children registered and Miss Carlo emphasized that all information given on the forms is kept absolutely confidential, and enrollment can be taken in a private room if requested.

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Larry Peterson To Seek Office

On Monday, April 10 in Fairbanks, Larry Peterson of Ft. Yukon filed for the House of Representatives, District 16.

Born and raised in Ft. Yukon, Mr. Peterson, age 33, is past president of the Ft. Yukon Native Association and has served on the city council. Under a gubernatorial appointment, he worked on the state Health and Social Services Commission.

Also a past vice-president of the Tanana Chiefs, he accompanied their delegation to Washington, D.C. to negotiate on the Land Claims, paying his own

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