

Barrow Power Play...

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mostly for utility poles and installation. Proceeds from private enterprise are not much and without advance funding, Ahvakana said they cannot possibly hire the staff needed for maintenance.

"This provision (on no advance funding) was not in our last contract. Is it because of a law Congress passed from the time the Indian people used bow and arrows?" puzzled Arnold Brower, president of BUI. "If so, why apply it now to Indians who have educated themselves to the same level as the U.S."

Neither Brower or Ahvakana are too happy with the contract arrangement anyhow, because it limits profit to 5 per cent and turns it back as payment on the BIA loan.

"They have us right under their hand," Ahvakana said. "The board of directors can't do a thing without the approval of the area director himself because of the revolving loan we have."

"They wrote the requirements put on hiring a new manager and we can't find a man here with some of those qualifications. We have a man I think would probably be good if he had a chance of getting the job. But he can't meet their qualifications."

"They've drawn up a contract of cost, plus five per cent," Brower added. "It's not a contract where you can lose yet we've been losing because of the loan."

"If the BIA would only forgive BUI on the loan and recognize us as a utility company and then let us go and run that company we could do a lot better," Ahvakana maintains. "We could make a lot more profit if they'd give us their pay back more on the loan."

And if BIA should refuse to sell BUI power if the maintenance contract is not renewed?

"If they cut our franchise there will be a suit and it will not be a small one," Ahvakana warned.

On a visit to Barrow this month, the Secretary of Interior was appraised somewhat on the problem and stated in a public press conference, "I'd like to

know where that (new) policy came from myself. Obviously the policy can't work if, in fact, there isn't enough money to do the job."

But the Juneau BIA office has yet to hear anything official and BUI, which hasn't heard anything official or otherwise, hasn't even seen a contract.

"If we don't here anything, we'll shut down as planned," Ahvakana assured the Tundra Times Tuesday.

Since it's summer and Barrow is in the land of the Midnight Sun, daylight is on his side and he added—the townsfolk are stocking up on batteries.

HEW Accuses ADE...

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orientation course.

"Some educational needs had been determined by state operated schools but were not specifically included in the project applications," the study continues. "For example, in October 1969, 2,516 children were given achievement tests which disclosed the existence of a 'serious language problem' in rural schools. The tests disclosed the problem to be less severe in schools with a balance between ethnic groups and most pronounced in small, isolated schools with high concentrations of native children."

"Eighth grade students in schools with high concentrations of native children were about two years behind the national norm in reading. At one school the vocabulary advancement between the fourth and eighth grades was less than the equivalent of a single grade level."

"However, no distinction had been made in the reported needs in schools with high concentrations of native children. Based on the significance of the testing results, we believe that specific subprojects should have been designed and included in the project application to meet these needs."

Auditors also observed not all available Title I money was used.

"For example, in fiscal year 1970, SOS did not prepare subprojects for \$307,427 that had been allotted by the Alaska Department of Education. This amount represents about 30 per

7:30 p.m., July 21—

Flood Control Meeting Here

FAIRBANKS—A public meeting will be held on flood control and related improvements at 7:30 p.m. on July 21 at Ryan Junior High School.

Under study will be a plan proposed by the Corps of Engineers for a dam and reservoir on the Chena River, a small detention dam on the Little Chena and a 26 mile levee from Moose Creek Dike along the north bank of the Tanana River to the Chena.

After considerable study the Corps is considering moving the dam site and reservoir downstream to a location on the

Chena north to Moose Creek Bluff about 10 miles from Fairbanks.

The purpose of the July meeting is to present in detail a plan for this project.

Those persons unable to attend the meeting are invited to

submit comments in writing to the District Engineer before the meeting so they may be made public.

The address is Department of the Army, Alaska District, Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 7002, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Multi-million Housing...

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organization which represents all Natives and can—we believe—be geared up to be sponsor and developer of this program."

Self-determination was about all AFN had to work with in the beginning, according to Nels Anderson, AFN treasurer.

"At a board meeting last March we heard that the money had been verbally committed and by the end of March it had been pretty well decided by some members of AFN would be available to manage it. Harry Carter, (AFN executive director) was directed to find when the money would be available, and how much could be used for planning."

Then the thing "dropped out of focus for a while."

"About May 9 we called Seattle to see if funds had come through. They called Washington and Washington said Jim Wilson (who directed the Office of Economic Indian Division) was on vacation."

"We got active the last week of May and got the National Council of Indian Opportunity to apply some pressure. Wilson was still on vacation..."

At the end of May, with no firm promise of federal funding, AFN hired John Tetpon, who'd been a moving force in unscrambling an ill-fated housing project in Bethel, to do preplanning for them.

They also got Mike Jones, housing specialist, transferred from State Economic Office of Opportunity at the request of RurAL CAP.

"AFN was stuck with the bill if the federal money didn't come through. In fact we're still stuck with it," Anderson said. "But we had to get started."

"About that time we got an inkling no money had been transferred from Washington to Seattle HUD. All we had to go on was the word of Chuck Savage, field representative of OEO, that everything was all right."

"On June 4 we heard that everything had been processed. All that was needed was a Congressional press release. Harry Carter called Senator Stevens office but no release was forthcoming."

In desperation, Anderson went to Washington, visited with the congressional delegation and spent considerable time with Sen. Ted Stevens whose office was to announce the housing project.

"We had a very congenial lunch and concluded it in an extremely friendly manner but that was all I got," he recalls. "He had me come back later that evening and put in a conference call to Nancy Eckland who was on vacation."

"We asked her who I might talk to in Sen. Stevens office to issue the press release and she told me Bob Weaver might do it. I got in touch with Bob Weaver and he didn't know anything about it but he said he'd check."

"I went back again on Wednesday but no release and no reason given as to why it wasn't out. On Thursday I pinned them down on getting a release and they said, 'Yes, it will get out.'"

Anderson went back to Anchorage. The release saying a

\$50,000 grant had been made to AFN for planning was issued June 11.

"None of us have seen it. My wife said she heard it on the radio," Anderson said last weekend. "We still don't have the money yet everybody is so proud to boast we've got. But it looks like it will materialize."

Other problems also materialized. Steven's first announcement of the housing project stated, "the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which would finance the homes, would also provide money for roads and a portion of water and sewer systems. Also helping with the water and sewer systems would be the Indian Health Service."

Then HUD said it would not be responsible for sewer and water and it was learned Public Health might not be able to secure funding.

"A classic example of the Bartlett Housing Bill," charged Charlie Edwardson, AFN board member, referring to the Bethel Housing project which was completed without any sewer and water.

At a recent board meeting in Barrow, AFN confronted federal agencies on this and on problems of coordination.

"Do you think ASHA could pull off building 1,200 homes by 1972?" they asked Bob Butler, director of Alaska State Housing.

"I couldn't get a direct answer from anyone on this," Nels Anderson reported. "I asked Butler in private why he just didn't say it was a monumental task."

"I personally think it's possible but you've got to put in blocks (of houses) the first year; 300 here, 200 there, in places that are accessible," Butler said for the record.

"Why 1,200 houses in one year? Why not 50 or 100 houses?" another board member wondered. "It sounds a little bit like a threat to me."

"There are 1,200 homes available to us. If you want them you take them," Don Wright explained. "If not, we simply lose them."

Anderson has been trying to get "housing starts" defined, which is what under federal directive, is needed to qualify by 1972.

"The best I've gotten is that we must have building contracts signed...that you don't have to actually have to start building," Anderson said. "And this made the board members really happy."

Tim Wallace, temporary president of the AFN Housing Committee, is becoming increasingly optimistic about the project.

"We've hired Western Housing Developers as consultants on the planning. They were recommended by HUD and by ASHA and have worked on 50% of the turnkey projects in Alaska. We're going to have trouble getting title to some of the land and we need more money for planning."

"HUD allocates \$400 per house and that isn't enough for the Alaska Bush. We're asking an additional \$400 per house."

"But I think we can do it!"

Minto Potlatch...

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Beginning last fall, the villagers began to save moose, ducks, bear and other meats to provide food for the celebration. During the winter months the women sewed boots and mittens and other items to present as gifts at the potlatch.

In addition, the visitors all brought food to help provide for the nearly 6,000 meals which were served over the four-day celebration.

One of the elders who had passed away, Moses Charlie, had relatives from the Tanacross-Forty-Mile area. At the gathering it was learned that Catherine Atlla from Huslia, who had come for the celebration, was a relative of Moses' wife, Bessie.

In this way, the celebration turned out to be a renewal of old ties and relationships from Huslia to Northway—the entire interior of Alaska.

Fred Ewan and others from Copper Center said that they had heard of the famous songs and dances from Minto, but that this was their first opportunity to participate in them.

Many of the speakers at the potlatch said that the young people must learn to be proud

of their heritage and their traditions. Several said that they wished that the young people would retain the language.

Commenting on this, Dr. Michael Krauss said, "The only way that the native languages will be preserved is to have the old people speak nothing but their native language to the very young."

The songs and dances will be lost if the native tongue is abandoned, and so he recommends that they preserve their language and customs. America has been the traditional "melting pot," but if the diversity of ingredients is lost, then the strength is gone.

The "potlatch" at Minto, then proved to be another big step for the native people. The Rev. Walter Hannum and David Paul of Tanacross celebrated the Episcopal Communion Service for the deceased, and later joined in the dancing to mark the end of mourning.

It was symbolic of the old and the new—pride in the past, but looking towards the future. The potlatch was not a sign of assimilation, but composition—the old and the new.

"For example, after approval of the 1969 SOS project, ADE sent a letter to SOS which included discussions on several defects and closed with the following comment:

"It is time we stop using federal funds to finance common everyday operations. They should be used to attack in a systematic way the basic needs of children. This requires a good deal more planning than has gone into your past projects..."

"However, ADE approved a similar 1970 SOS project which provided general aid type services."

As to what will happen next, the only clue is on a cover sheet attached to the report.

"The designation of financial and/or management practices as questionable or a recommendation for the disallowance of costs incurred or claimed as well as other conclusions and recommendations in this report, represent the findings and opinions of the HEW Audit Agency. Final determinations on these matters will be made by authorized HEW operating agency officials."