

**Blames Int. Dept.—****One of Top BIA Staff Members Resigns**

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 16 (AIPA)—Ernest Stevens, one of the top Indian staff members of the new Bureau of Indian Affairs team in Washington, D.C., announced his resignation as Director of Community Services last week. He said that his resignation would take effect in mid-April.

Stevens, an Oneida Indian from Wisconsin, charged lack of support from the Interior Department as the main reason for his resignation. He blamed that department for reversing and holding up many of the Commissioner's policies for Indian self-determination.

Indian Commissioner Louis R. Bruce and a team of fifteen high-level Indian assistants last fall introduced new and controversial policies in the structure and operations of the BIA. Among those changes were the plans for regular rotation transfer of high-level BIA field personnel; transfer of high-level BIA personnel by tribal request; realignment of authority in BIA field offices; and contracting of BIA functions to tribal offices with continued federal funding.

Bruce's policy on rotational transfers of BIA field personnel brought strong criticism from several tribal leaders who charged that they were not consulted in the change.

Stevens charged some BIA field officials of "politicking in Congress and the Interior De-

partment to have Bruce's decisions reversed. It would be interesting for Indian people to know that the BIA can't really control even their own personnel," he said. "And I'm not talking about decision-making alone, but in routine matters too."

But Stevens indicated that his charges were not a blanket indictment of all field administrators. "There's only a few of those who undermine BIA policy," he said. "I think that the field people, the area directors and the central office people can put it together for the Indian people. We've just got to work together."

A major emphasis for Stevens has been getting the huge \$40 million Employment Assistance program into the hands of Indian people. He is attempting to establish a national tribal advisory committee with power to review the huge contracts to corporations to run training centers for Indian people in distant cities. "Tribes should decide how much money will be spent to meet the training needs of their people," he said.

He feels that the BIA will continue with its policies of full Indian participation. "I think it'll all work out, but it will work out without me." He said that he is not leaving the Indian scene, however. "I don't know what I'll be doing," he said, "but I'll be vocal."

**Planning Is Foremost—****Nulato's Education Experiment**

TO BUILD A SCHOOL—Ivan Sipary, chairman of the Change Agent Team in Nulato discusses village plans for a new school to be built in the village this year under a unique Change Process.

program. Laura Patsy, (left), a student from Nulato, was one of the team members who toured Anchorage and Kenai schools for ideas.

—Photo by MADELYN SHULMAN

By MADELYN SHULMAN

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(First of two parts)

NOTE: During the past few months, the village of Nulato has been the center of an exciting experiment in educational planning. Village residents are cooperating with officials from the Division of State Operated Schools to plan a new school in their village.

In a two part series, the Tundra Times will examine the situation in Nulato today, the plan in progress and next week, the new educational innovations Nulato residents have seen in their "field trip" to various schools.

Something exciting is happening in Nulato, the village looks the same. In early March, they held their annual spring dog races and their annual ceremonial Stick Dance attracted tourists and visitors from all over the state.

Yet, in February, nine Nulato residents were touring Anchorage, Kenai and Fairbanks, looking at innovative school programs. They questioned students, teachers, administrators, and parents in Tyonek, Seldovia, Anchorage, Homer and other places.

Nulato is in the process of building a new school. This year, through a unique "Change Process" being tried for the first time in a Native village in Alaska, Nulato's Athabascan Indian residents are planning their own school.

They will incorporate the best they have seen of the newest advances in education plus something of their native culture, language, and village experience to their children's future education.

The village is long overdue for a new school building. The Division of State Operated Schools took over the present village school in 1969 from the Catholic Mission which had started it at the turn of the century.

Classes are still housed in the mission school building, which dates from the early 1900's and needed extensive repair before the state could open it. The lunch building roof has fallen in. Classes are also held at the former priest's house, which now houses a school teacher, as well as the National Guard Armory, the tiny City Building and another teacher's residence.

The scattered buildings, many of them fire hazards, boast no indoor plumbing and several have insufficient heating. Due to this, school must often be closed in cold weather.

Recognizing this need, the Division of State Operated Schools has appropriated \$925,000 this year for a Nulato School.

At the same time, since the village was due for a new school it was chosen to participate in the "Change Process" a pilot program in community participation in education.

Hopefully, they feel, community input in building the school will lead to better learning and more participation in future education.

To accomplish this change, SOS contracted Northwest Educational Laboratories, Inc., a Portland, Oregon firm. Northwest Laboratories is also working in Healy, Wrangell and Juneau. Nulato will be their first native village experiment. Northwest Laboratories is a non-profit educational research and development corporation, one of whose projects was the Alaska reader.

To begin the program, after village council approval had been received, two researchers from SOS and Northwest Labs came to the village to document its history, present situation, school facilities and the desires of village residents.

In the beginning, they wrote, Nulato was the site of a Russian trading post, later a Catholic Mission. It is one of seven Athabascan villages in the area. Village residents descended partly from the children of Russian traders who married local Indian women. Partly, they descended from the Indian tribes who destroyed the trading post several times during the 1800's.

The job situation in Nulato is difficult. Many, in fact most, adult residents are unemployed and must live partly off the land.

As a result, students see few jobs in their future. They are aware of few opportunities. A few adventurous boys see themselves as future Wien pilots, others as plumbers, carpenters, hunters, fisherman - the occupations in the village. Girls want to become teachers, P.H.S. nurses, secretaries.

All of these answers come

from extensive questionnaires the researchers distributed to parents, adult residents, teachers and older students.

In the questionnaires, village residents were asked what they wanted in a new school, what should it include, what should be taught?

Overwhelmingly, residents asked for a new school, to be located on the "expansion" site of the village. They wanted grades 1-12, so their children would not have to travel hundreds or thousands of miles to boarding schools.

Residents were asked to name people they thought of as "community leaders". From these, a list of candidates was compiled for the Change Agent Team - the main community body to plan the new school and its program.

From the names furnished by villagers, members were chosen to represent the various factions among the residents - parents, students, old people, unmarried people, dogmushers, teachers, unemployed, national guardsmen, etc. Altogether, over 20 village residents were named to the team.

It was the Change Agent Team which met repeatedly, examined the desires of village residents and set 20 priorities for a village school. From these they chose 5 important ones, headed by the need for a new school building.

With priorities set, it was time for them to discover what options are open in Alaskan education - in buildings, instructional materials, types of training.

One important method of finding this out was a site visitation—traveling to various schools with unusual programs to learn the new developments in education which might be applicable to Nulato.

**Festival of Native Arts to Pay Items in Advance**

The Alaska Festival of Native arts this year will pay craftsmen in advance for articles they exhibit in the Festival Show.

In this way, they hope to get better made and higher quality items without the hardship on the artist imposed by delayed payment for his work. They expect no problems in reselling these items.

Work that is not good enough for exhibit in the Festival Show will be put up for sale in the "sales area" of the Museum.

Artists and craftsmen with work in the sales area will be paid after the Festival for work sold. Items that are not sold will be returned.

Categories of work to be ex-

hibited include basketry, sculpture, models and miniatures, masks, graphics, beadwork, skin sewing, metal crafts, jewelry, dolls, utensils, yo-yo's, miscellaneous.

The Alaska Festival of Native Arts is held each year at the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum in conjunction with the annual Alaska Festival of Music. This year's exhibit will be June 7-30.

Last year, the Festival had over 1,000 items submitted by over 200 participating artists and craftsmen.

Entry blanks for work to be submitted to the Festival can be obtained from the Tundra Times. Items should be mailed before May 1.

**Scientists to Join Cutter Glacier To Study Marine Life in Bering Sea**

JUNEAU — Scientists from Alaska and other states will join the U.S. Coast Guard cutter "Glacier" this spring for a month-long cruise to study the marine life in the Bering Sea.

The team, led by John J. Burns, Marine Mammal Biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Francis H. Fay, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, will leave Nome aboard the "Glacier" on March 26.

Plans call for the scientists to work within the pack ice of the Bering Sea until April 20, then leave the ship at Seward on April 24.

"The cooperation of the U.S. Coast Guard in this cruise will provide scientists with the opportunity to conduct a variety of studies normally hampered by the inaccessibility of the area," Burns said.

Burns plans to continue a long-range program on the biology and ecology of seals and walrus with special emphasis on several aspects of the reproductive process.

Ecological investigations, distribution and abundance, reproduction, food habits, physiology, and anatomy, miscellaneous collections and tagging are among the programs included in his project.

Burns will be aided by Edward S. Muktooyuk, a Department of Fish and Game technician from Nome.

Other projects planned for the cruise include:

Acoustical and behavioral investigation of marine mammals, particularly walrus and bowhead whales—Carleton Ray of Johns Hopkins University and William E. Schevill, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.