

Native claims textbook serial

(Ed. Note: This is the third in a series of excerpts from the Alaska Native Land Claims book. It is the hope of the Tundra Times and Alaska Native Foundation that the publication of the series will further the understanding and implementation of all parties involved and affected by the claims Settlement Act. The book was released by the

ANF in 1976 and was also made possible by a Ford Foundation grant. Robert D. Arnold edited the text. Authors include: Janet Archibald; Margie Bauman; Nancy Yaw Davis; Robert A. Frederick; Paul Gaskin; John Havelock; Gary Holthaus; Chris McNeil; Thomas Richards, Jr.; Howard Rock and Rosita Worl.)



Eighteenth Century Territories

Chapter 2

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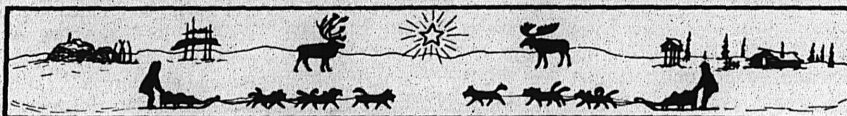
Tundra Times

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Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak



Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

Vol. 13, No. 45

Wednesday, November 10, 1976

Fairbanks, Alaska

Trespass case has hearing Judge to study trespass case

BY JEFFREY R. RICHARDSON

After 13 months of paper filing and legal maneuvering, the North Slope trespass case finally got rolling last week. The United States Government and the Inupiat people of the Arctic Slope are suing more than 120 parties for trespassing on Inupiat lands prior to passage of the land claims act. The defendants include the State of Alaska, oil companies, and various contractors.

A hearing was held Wednesday and Thursday before U. S. District Court Judge James A. Fitzgerald in Anchorage, who has been asked by the defendants to dismiss the case.

State Attorney General Avrum Gross and Anchorage Attorney Richard Gantz represented the defendants. Gross warned that trespass suits would be filed all over the state if this case were allowed to proceed and that a "bleak period of litigation" would set in, pitting Natives against whites.

The trespass case stems from a 1971 suit filed by Charles Edwardson, Jr., of Barrow. Edwardson charged that the Secretary of the Interior had failed in his responsibility to protect the Inupiat from trespass. He further claimed that trespassers had caused serious damage to the land and people.

The judge in the Edwardson case ruled that Inupiat claims for damages caused by trespass might still be valid even though the land claims act had been passed by the time he made his ruling. The Justice Department was then requested to sue the alleged trespassers.

In his presentation at last week's hearing, Gross criticized the Edwardson decision for be-

ing poorly developed. "Never have so few words in a judicial decision created so many problems for so many people," he said.

Arguing that all Native claims were terminated by the land claims act, Gross told the judge:

"This case is really nothing more than an effort to reinstate the whole issue and it shouldn't be allowed."

Miles Flint, the U.S. Attorney representing the Inupiat, denied that there is a multitude of litigation lurking behind this case. He also pointed out that the government is not raising the issue of land title, but of damages caused by trespass on lands once held by the Inupiat.

Yale Lewis, representing the Arctic Slope Native Association which has intervened in the case, tore at the defendants' position for nearly two hours.

Lewis acknowledged that many people in the state were angry about the lawsuit, but he said such feeling was based on confusion and accused the defendants of creating misunderstanding. He said most of the arguments made by the defendants do not even apply to the North Slope.

"Defendants have stubbornly

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CHARLES EDWARDS, JR. who initiated the trespass suit is shown picketing in 1969 at the State's oil lease sale in Anchorage. The sale brought over \$900 million which is already gone. The photo is by Bruce Belford. Edwardson is shown at right as he posed for the book jacket of his biography, "Etok" which labeled him the "Malcom X of his people". The Barrow Eskimo is now a lobbyist for the North Slope Borough in Washington, D.C. The photo is by Margie Bauman.

Demmert director of IEP

By GEOFF KENNEDY

Bill Demmert says he doesn't have all the answers on how to educate Native Americans, but he has some.

They are: 1—the schools should reflect the culture and values of the community; 2—the local communities must make the important decisions in education and control the education process; and 3—competent, dedicated teachers must coordinate school administration, the local community and students in the process of education.

Demmert, the director of Indian education programs for the Bureau of Indian Affairs,

spoke to the conference on cross cultural education in the Far North at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in October.

Demmert said in order to reform Native American education, teachers must develop a "warm relationship" with local communities they serve. So far American public school-administrations have interacted only with a few community leaders, he said. Demmert said public schools have not been flexible enough to achieve the warm relationship necessary for reform.

Demmert said he doesn't think the school should teach Native

culture where the community has kept that culture alive. But he said he thinks the school should reflect that culture.

He agreed that schools should teach Native history. "It is a very important part of history to know where we came from and our place in the world."

But "we have to know what happens in the rest of the state, the country and the world as well," he added.

Demmert said the task is integrating Native history with its context. "We really haven't focussed on our own identity and past in a proper perspective

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