

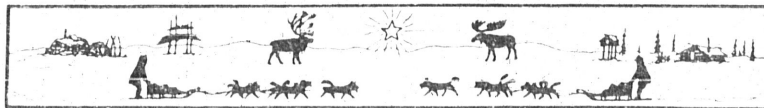


# Tundra Times

Inupiat Pitot 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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Fairbanks, Alaska

## HEARING ON SENATE BILL 61

### Morton Protects Native Options

Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton said today that a recently published withdrawal order affecting 1.5 million acres of public land in Alaska would protect the options of that State's Native people to select land under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

The land affected by the withdrawal had once been a part of the 2.7 million acres that had been set aside earlier in native reservations, but none lies outside areas designated specifically by the act of 1971 for native selection.

The native claims act simultaneously lifted withdrawals affecting certain reservation land and gave native villages having reservation land the option of retaining such land in lieu of settlement provisions under the act.

Secretary Morton said that until the new order was published there was the possibility that mining claims might have been filed on reservation land before the villages could reach a decision.

This might have complicated the granting of titles to those villages wishing to exercise this option provided by the act.

The withdrawal closed former reservation lands to selection by the State of Alaska and to the filing of mining claims until December 18, 1973.

It was published in the federal register February 11, 1972.

"This action is in accord with President Nixon's expressed desire to protect Indian rights fully under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act," the Secretary said.

### Laura Bergt Called To Hearing

Two weeks ago Mrs. Neil Bergt (Laura) of Fairbanks wrote a letter to members of the Alaska State Legislature asking them to "take steps this year towards establishing a State school for the handicapped."

Yesterday, as a result of that letter, the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Education was to hold a special hearing in Juneau on the needs for special education in Alaska, with particular emphasis on the problems of the deaf, hard of hearing and blind.

Representative Genie Chance, chairman of the House committee, told Mrs. Bergt in a letter last week that the hearing was scheduled as a result of Mrs. Bergt's letter.

Mrs. Chance thanked Mrs. Bergt for her "definitive discussion of the needs for special education" in the state and invited her to attend the hearing.

Mrs. Bergt told the Tundra Times that she would attend the hearing in Juneau.



MRS. EDNA EAKON, an Inupiat Eskimo, picks edible wild greens near Unalakleet. She is one of the oldest residents of that village.

—Photo By EMILY I. BROWN

### Historical Unalakleet—

#### 'Effects of the South Wind'

By EMILY I. BROWN

The village of Unalakleet—located on the coast about 127 miles east of Nome—is built on a sand spit on the west side of the mouth of the Unalakleet River, on the coast of Norton Bay in the Bering Sea.

Its location is reflected in its Eskimo name, which literally means "the effects of the south winds." The coast line on which it is located parallels the south

winds.

Colonel Muktuk Marston, who came to the village during World War II, is credited with giving it its Eskimo name.

The ancient Unalik Eskimos were Unalakleet's first inhabitants. We do not know when they claimed this coastal land, but archaeologists have determined that Cape Denbeigh, 28 miles west of Unalakleet, is from 3500 to 4500 years old.

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## Claims Roll Regulations Issued— In Preparation of Roll of Eligible Natives

The proposed regulations for preparing a roll of Alaska Natives eligible to share in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971, were issued today by Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton.

Louis R. Bruce, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, pointed out that the Native Claims Act provides for settlement of awards totaling \$962.5 million and 40 million acres of land, and ends a struggle which had been pending since the United States purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867.

"Alaska Natives" who may be eligible for enrollment must be:

States.

2) At least one-fourth degree Eskimo, Aleut or Alaskan Indian blood, or combination thereof (including Tsimshian Indians whose Native Alaska ancestry predates the treaty of March 30, 1867, and who are not enrolled in the Metlakatla Indian Community).

3) Born on or before December 18, 1971, and living on that date.

The proposed regulations prescribe rules for preparation of the roll and establish March 30, 1973, as the deadline to apply for enrollment.

The regulations also define "permanent resident" of Alaska

### State House Committee On Minority Hire Has Lively Session Here

By HOWARD ROCK  
Times Editor

FAIRBANKS—"An act providing an avenue for individuals with demonstrated abilities to enter into employment without educational and experience requirements; and providing for an effective date."

So states State Senate Bill 61.

The bill got more than a little attention here last weekend, so much so that it had many of the House committee members on minority hire on the edge of their seats.

Senate Bill 61, according to Senator Edward Merdes, D-Fairbanks, who was invited to sit in at the hearing, was designed to not require minorities to read and write but to find out who could do the job even though the applicant can not pass a written test.

"There has been no persons hired under this bill," Senator Merdes revealed. "I'd like to see the enthusiasm changed. Let's enforce this bill."

Many of the people who testified at the hearing pointed out that there were skilled workers among the minorities who could handle many jobs but they don't get the jobs because they can't pass the written test.

"If a native does not pass the written test, even though he is

able to do the job and meet all the requirements, why not hire him?" queried Tom Drake.

Drake is part Eskimo from Nome and he is the director of the Northern Correctional Institution (Fairbanks State jail). Drake also pointed out that the bill does not apply to urban areas. Others agreed with him.

"The bill does not cover metropolitan areas," said Willie Radcliffe, a Negro. "Its intent is not being carried out. The legislature should broaden the scope of it. The bill is missing the metropolitan areas and missing the Black. We're on the bottom of the totem pole among the minorities."

The hearing was chaired by Rep. Ed Orbeck, D-Fairbanks, and his committee was made up of the following members:

Rep. Jess Harris, R-Anchorage; Rep. John Huber, D-Fairbanks; Rep. Joe McGill, D-Dillingham; Rep. Eugene V. Miller,

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### AFN Now Corporation— Directors Increased from 3 to 12

By NORMA BOWKETT  
Staff Writer

Members of the board of directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., meeting last week in Anchorage, increased the size of their board from three to twelve members,

to allow for board representation from each of the 12 regions defined in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and established policy to prevent AFN officers and committees from obligating funds without permission of the 12-member board.

"This is insurance," said Tina Wallis, president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, "so that AFN cannot commit any of the regions . . . The regions are the stockholders."

During four days of meetings, Alaska natives also met with Harrison Loesch, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior, and reviewed rules and regulations written to provide a system for carrying out the enrollment of all Alaska natives who qualify for benefits under the natives claims act.

Loesch advised native leaders to expedite enrollment of natives and the formation of regional and village corporations so that Alaskans can receive the benefits of the natives claims act.

Loesch, said Harry Carter, executive director of AFN, "cleared up several questions as

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