

HIGH SCHOOL

The Bethel area will push hard for action in the near future to establish a regional high school in Bethel and to secure appropriations for the Alaska Native Housing Bill, according to the Kuskokwim Valley Native Association newsletter.

The Bethel based Kuskokwim Valley native Association also reported they had sent letters to other native associations soliciting materials to send to the coming legislature.

In charge of the housing committee for KVNA is Sen. Ray Christensen, who has called for a further push to fund the Bartlett Housing Bill. The bill passed the Congress last session, but no provision has yet been made for funding. The outlook for funding the bill is reportedly not good.

Anchorage attorney Stanley McCutcheon has been appointed attorney to handle KVNA's legal matters. The association newsletter indicated that the attorney had advised the group to organize under the "Indian Reorganization Act."

Tony Lewis, President of KVNA, was voted to represent KVNA at the Federation of Native Associations meeting in Fairbanks on January 19 and 20th.

AFNA . . .

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presence at the meeting today.

The move was made after attorney Stanley McCutcheon suggested that the work on the constitution be set aside for now in favor of discussion on land claims.

McCutcheon said land matters were most serious and what will be decided at the conference will have a very great bearing in the future of the Native people.

On Friday, today, the conference will take on such subjects as land claims, housing, education, employment and health and welfare.

In the afternoon, recommendations are expected to be made on such matters as the Governor Walter J. Hickel's proposal of the Department of Native Affairs.

Discussion and recommendations will also be made on the Atomic Energy Commission's idea of atomic blasts in Alaska's remote areas; plans for finances of the AFNA; discussion on lobby work; and setting of the time and place for the next conference of the Federation.

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Stress Land Settlement

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the association would probably enter the suit as an interested third party, claiming that the land in question was theirs and the federal government had no right to pass title.

Emphasizing that oil development in the Arctic Slope should not be stopped, Gov. Hickel said he wanted to go ahead, and was going ahead, with a proposed oil lease sale of 37,000 acres of land on the North Slope later this month.

Stressing it was also interested in continued development, the Arctic Slope Native Association indicated it would be agreeable not to intervene in the proposed sale if the purchaser would pay it not to sue.

The effect of such a pact would probably be that the oil companies would pay to the association a percentage of the amount it would normally pay to the state for such leases.

A precedent for such an agreement was set when in 1952 the Colorado Oil and Gas Co. entered into an agreement with the Yakutat Indians whereby it agreed to pay Yakutat \$50,000 for his promise not to sue in a lease sale of lands nearby.

Such a pact would not effect the basic claim of the Eskimo to the land itself. It would simply mean that the Eskimos would not be able to take legal action against the purchaser of the lease but would have to make such claim to the U.S. Government.

At the 2-hour conference held in the Governor's office, there was quite an exchange of ideas in an attempt to work out the common problem and a spirit of understanding resulted.

Representing the ASNA were: Sam Taalak, president, and Hugh Nicholls, executive director, and Frederick Paul, the association's attorney.

Representing the state were: Governor Hickel, Attorney General Donald Burr, and Phil Holdsworth, Commissioner, Department of Interior, Juneau.

Representing other interested Native Associations were: Jules Wright, president of the Fairbanks Native Association and a state legislator; John Sackett, president of Tanana Chiefs and a state legislator; Byron Mallot, representative at large, Council of Five Chiefs, Yakutat, and Walter Soboleff, grand president of the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

"A man who will not protect his freedoms does not deserve to be free."
 GEN DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

BIA Charged of Giving Hydaburg 'Run Around'

Klawock and Hydaburg cannery officials met in Seattle last month with representatives of the BIA to discuss operation of the Hydaburg cannery this year.

Bureau of Indian Affairs officials would give no indication of what their decision on the operation of the cannery would be.

The bureau, which has gained control of both canneries through loan agreements, has ordered the Hydaburg cannery closed for the last two years. Economic reasons have been advanced as arguments for the closure.

In the same two years, the older cannery at Klawock has been operated with the sanction of the BIA.

Richard Whittaker, former district attorney for Ketchikan, recently criticized the BIA stand.

"It seems, from the news reported in these pages last week, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is still giving the people of Hydaburg the run-around," Whittaker said.

"It is hard to understand a policy which announces it is to help people but which in effect is setting the people of two communities against each other. From the way the BIA has dealt with the operation of the canneries at Hydaburg and Klawock, it is a wonder that the people from each city still speak to each other."

The attorney went on to suggest the Hydaburg cannery be divorced from BIA control and that private industry be invited to investigate its operation.

Prior to 1963, whenever it was economically necessary to close one cannery, the canneries alternated years of operation.

Now, the Klawock cannery has operated for three years and the Hydaburg cannery has been ordered to stand idle.

Cannery officials have questioned the legality, practicality, and morality of the BIA stand.

Hydaburg Cannery Council official Fred Grant, Jr. said last week, "I think we're gaining ground, atleast we're being heard in our capacity as directors. But how much influence we'll have—how much recognition we'll receive—I do not yet know."

Grant objected most strenuously to the methods used by the BIA when it threatened default action on the cannery two years ago.

Grant said the cannery manager had been secretly relieved of his duties by the BIA before the loan payment came due.

The payment has not been made, Grant said. There has

been no information from the BIA on what effect the payment has on the default action.

On Nov. 2 of last year, the Hydaburg Cannery Council passed a resolution asking the BIA to grant them more independence in the operation of their cannery.

In the two months since that resolution has been passed, the BIA has not responded nor has it indicated what its reaction to the request is.

Grant said, "I don't think our request or our attitude is arbitrary. We're trying to gear our business to successful business operations."

"If it is necessary to combine operations with Klawock, the sensible thing to do would be to set up a reciprocal agreement to guarantee Hydaburg cannery operation at least every other year."

Klawock cannery officials made a general request at the Seattle meeting that all canneries be allowed to operate, Grant said. Klawock also suggested combined operations when the market is bad or during poor fishing years.

Attending the meeting from Hydaburg were Bob Sanderson, Sylvester Peele, Ed Sanderson and Fred Grant Jr.

There were two meetings, each lasting six hours.

Hydaburg cannery officials are anxiously awaiting word from the BIA.

"Liberty is the product of order."

WILL DURANT

CAA Asks Writing For Representative

All agencies and groups, private and public, interested in having a representative on the board of directors of the North Star Borough Community Action Agency, a private, non-profit corporation, should notify in writing the Membership Committee, 419 Second Ave., Fairbanks, Alaska, before the 10th of February. For further information call 456-4184.

"We would often be sorry if our wishes were gratified."
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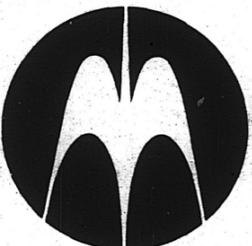
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