

Arctic Slope Considers Big Borough . . .

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one addition, that of Barter Island and perhaps extending from the Canadian border and west along the Brooks Range."

The present native thinking stems from the strong indication of the congressional members the

seemingly impressive respect they have for the Federal Field Committee for Development in Alaska recommendations for settlement of the native land claims.

The committee recommended a large money settlement and

relatively small areas of land.

"The Federal Field Committee envisions two systems," Fred Paul told ASNA. "The first is that the Alaska Native Development Corporation will have sufficient cash and political strength that it can through the legislature give you some assistance, remembering that conceivably the Alaska Native Development Corporation can have cash in hand within ten years of more than one billion dollars."

"But I do not believe we should put all our eggs in one basket."

Paul said that the second system that was available to ASNA

was the creation of a borough.

He said that in an informal talk with Joseph Fitzgerald, chairman of the Federal Field Committee in Alaska, Fitzgerald thought that the natural alignment of such a borough would be: Barrow, Kobuk and Nome election Districts.

"The value of the borough is that it can control zoning," concluded Paul. "Thus the borough could pass a resolution forbidding commercial development in certain areas, the areas you need for your subsistence living."

"Such a resolution would have the force of law and no development could be effected therein."

'THIS LAND IS MY LAND' . . .

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River east to the Canning River, boundary of Arctic Wildlife Range) competitively will result in receiving considerably more revenue over non-competitive leasing." In the comparative example of revenue return the only item listed for non-competitive was first year rental at 50¢ an acre. No federal, state, or local taxes were considered—a negotiated sale of a non-competitive lease to an oil company was not considered.

Another surprising statement made in LCO No.11 was "Only a \$20 filing fee is required and no rentals are due up to the date of issue of a lease." Anyone who has made a federal lease application knows that rentals of 50¢ an acre are PAID IN ADVANCE and that the filing fee is \$10. A regular 2560 acres lease costs \$1290. CASH. On a state lease it is \$20. and no rent due until the lease is issued. But, all of the leases and offers in question are federal—not state.

In LCO No.11 it is stated "The average of all previous North Slope competitive sales is \$13/acre with 64% of the lands offered being leased." The state has had 22 competitive sales since statehood with an average bonus of \$30.75 an acre and 66.8% leased (Alaska Division of Lands 1968 Annual Report, page S-13). The minimum offer was 20¢ an acre and the maximum \$1509.72. The Prudhoe Bay discover block went for \$233.00 an acre.

Public statements as quoted by the press implied that only 366,080 acres and 70 applications were affected by LCO No.11. Some 368,640 acres applied for were on terminal federal leases and had not been re-offered on simultaneous lists due to the land freeze, therefore the state considered them in-valid. But 2,233,360 acres under LCO No.11 ARE under existing leases. Shell Oil and Standard of California hold many of these, of which 140,800 acres will expire in 1969. Atlantic Richfield and Humble, Mobil and Phillips, and Occidental all hold leases in the controversial area. There are 1160 total leases and applications in the LCO No.11 withdrawal area.

Right now the land re-classification order only affects North Slope lands. Subsequent orders issued by the state could affect ALL lands from now on—in the Kandik, Selawik, Bethel, Copper River, or Cook Inlet basins—homesteads as well as oil and gas offers. The Department of Natural Resources tactics lend an air of instability to the state's policies. What will they re-classify next? (One geophysical company is said to have cancelled a \$2 million exploration program set for 1969 due to land classification uncertainties.)

The Division of Lands oft proclaimed "The state will honor all prior valid lease applications" apparently it is to be changed. The key word of course is VALID. But who determines what validity is? LCO No.11 says "The second factor. . . is the obligation IF ANY to the pending applicants." This is the moral issue and the legal issue.

Remember the state HAS TO lease COMPETITIVELY all offshore and tideland and that Alaska has the longest coastline of any state in the world (probably at least 300 million acres). All general grant land, all mental health land, all University and school land selected by the state under the statehood act must be disposed of by COMPETITIVE leasing—under law. The state has offered for competitive bidding to date 4,751,456,92 acres and received bids on 66.8% of it. What then is left to offer non-competitively?

On the competitive side of the ledger only the oil companies and state officials are involved. On the non-competitive side more than two entities are involved. In competitive leasing majors and individual can sell a lease offer to an oil company and benefit thereby, and so will the state, federal, and local governments.

Let's be fair. Let's take one block of land on the North Slope within the LCO No.11 area and lease it competitively and see what happens. Let's find out in money what benefits the state would get each way, what benefits the federal government would get, the local governments, the native people, the oil companies, the lease brokers, and last but not least—individuals. This story has more than two sides—it has seven sides!

Briefly—the natives claim the Russians never owned Alaska, just used it and exploited it, and that the U.S. Government had, and has, no right to claim it, sell it, lease it, or give it away—it belongs to the native people.

But the federal government bought Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million and the federal government feels it owns the land. Through the BLM, the USGS, and the BIA the federal government developed land resources in Alaska. Progress has come to a grinding held due to an overlapping flood of land-freeze orders. Even native allotments can't be processed.

Then the state feels it owns a lot of Alaska because the state—only ten years old, was granted the right to select 104,450,000 acres of land for its own financial support when statehood was born. This was to enable the state to wean itself from its federal mother and gain independence, but federal mother now says, "No no—no land."

Boroughs and cities have a vested interest in Alaska's land too. Can the local government agencies be supported entirely by Mr. Average Taxpayer? The real property owners are rising up in arms. Non-owners of property pay many taxes, but no real property taxes.

Alaska's land has been leased by the hundreds of thousands of acres by the oil companies. Without their interest and capital the economy of the state would not prosper. Juneau oil lobbyists are finding legislators anxious to vary tax increases and somewhat perplexed by the enormity of required oil legislation and control. The oil companies feel they must hide every shred of information from the public and each other in the hope of keeping competitive bid prices (on the acreage around Prudhoe Bay that the state has owned for sometime) within reason this fall. (For the state's proposed competitive land lease sale).

NEXT: Competitive and non-competitive comparisons.

Snowshoe Race

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away while Notti came in a rather bad second. One of the reasons was that Notti fell flat on his face in the snow just at the third step of his race.

Several other chiefs were expected to race but they didn't show up at the grounds, including Ralph Perdue of the ptarmigan foot fame. (He has trained with ptarmigan feet attached to the front ends of his snowshoes so he can be light-footed like the ptarmigan.)

After the race, conversations followed and someone said that Perdue had "chickened out."

"That guy didn't chicken out he ptarmiganed out," someone sneered.

Sen. Ray Christensen of Bethel was expected but he didn't arrive in Fairbanks. Rep. William L. (Willie) Hensley wound up in New York on business as well as to appear on the national television show, "Today."

On the following day of the Chiefs race, Richard Frank was challenged by Gov. Keith Miller.

Gov. Miller almost won the race because Richard Frank fell and lost one of his snowshoes. He had to replace his shoe, got up and pursued the Governor and beat the State Chief Executive by a nose.

Richard Frank is thinking about challenging all chiefs next year by having all chiefs donate some money before the race and the money will go to some charitable institution in the City of Fairbanks.

Dancers . . .

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tion to generation without changing even the smallest detail.

Previously, these dances were performed only once every year, on New Year's Eve in Point Hope. The first photographs ever permitted of the dances were taken in 1965 by the Tundra Times.

The Point Hope group will also do a second type of dance termed the Saiyuk or motion dance. Among these are newly created dances.

The dancers travelling to Fairbanks from Point Hope for the presentation include Jimmy Killigvik, famed whaler and dance leader. Other dancers who arrived on Wednesday are Patrick Attungana and his wife, Eva, David and Dinah Frankson, Mrs. Irene Tooyuk, and Christopher Tingook.

The group hopes to join with other Point Hope Eskimos so that they will have enough team members to perform some of the traditional dances.

One of the dances in the traditional category is Enangejies Chouploose, meaning the "Spirit of the Dance" which is done as a prelude or introduction to the other dances.

Another Otookuk dance is the Choyaqluga or "Marionette Dance." The dance involves an almost life size doll which is manipulated expertly with strings. The figure keeps time to the drums, opening and closing its mouth to the chants.

The marionette unsuccessfully reaches for a morsel dangled in front of it throughout the dance although, in the end, it grabs the enticing ball.

Also in the traditional category is the Ooyalu, the dance of the rejected suitors. It tells the story of a woman who rejected all suitors. She rejected men, one by one, until she was taken by a monster as punishment for her behavior.

In publicly performing these dances, the Point Hope group will be skirting ancient tradition. The event will be a rare opportunity to view what is often considered the most truly authentic Alaskan native dancing groups.

Hensley on TV Show . . .

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has risen to the position of Democratic whip in the Alaska legislature.

"It is Mr. Hensley's mission not only to bring all of Alaska's native population into the 20th Century, but to insure that they receive their fair share of Alaska's land and natural wealth," Hugh Downs told his television audience.

When the actual video time came, Downs said that Hensley was the member of the Alaskan legislature, that he was a Democrat and holds the position of a minority whip.

"... All very interesting you may say," Downs continued, "But so what? So he is an Eskimo. And we are not used to seeing this particular minority group in any position of power in our country. That is precisely why we invited Mr. William Hensley to be our guest this morning."

"We want to find out something about a subject of which most of us have little knowledge. What is happening to the Eskimos and the Indians and the Aleuts who make up so much of the population of our largest state."

The answers to Hugh Downs' questions by Hensley were not available but the guest was asked a variety of questions.

The first question was about how much the white man has imposed his authority and his culture upon the original inhabitants of Alaska.

"... First, your name is William Hensley," asked Downs. "You come from the village of Kotzebue. Right away we see that you've adopted an English name and your village is named for a European explorer. How much have your people had to sacrifice of their own culture to survive?"

Hensley was asked what proportion of the Alaskan population was Eskimo, Indian and Aleut; as an instance of what Eskimo children were up against, could Hensley tell the audience how he managed to get an education?

—that the biggest single problem with which Hensley is now involved is the issue of establishing ownership of Alaskan lands—would he tell something about that.

—that there was considerable unemployment among the native people. Why was this so? What are jobs which are available and what can be done to create more jobs?

Rep. Hensley was in New York to attend the convention of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association representing the Alaska Village Electrification Cooperative.

"I understand you are very involved in trying to provide electricity for more than 20,000 of your people who don't have it. Tell us something about this project." Downs asked Hensley.

Hugh Downs then mentioned the Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel and that Hickel has been one of President Nixon's most controversial appointees. Hickel was the former Governor of Alaska.

"He was not then, nor is he now, beloved by conservationists. How do you feel about him?" asked Downs.

Downs asked another question, "Would it be correct for me to say that Secretary of the Interior Hickel is in a position to do your people a lot of good, or a lot of harm, and that his good will is vital?"

Downs wanted to know whether there was a rage or a resentment among the native people comparable to that which Black Americans feel: How many natives were in the Alaskan legislature and how many occupy positions of importance or power in the outer branches of state government.

"Finally," queried Downs, "When you refer to the 48 states which existed before Hawaii and Alaska became states, what do you say? In Hawaii they can say mainland. But how do you refer to us?"

GOLDBERG . . .

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people.

Justice Goldberg is also slated to address the annual Alaska Press Club Man of the Year Awards banquet to be held tomorrow in the Anchorage-Westward Hotel ballroom.

Emil Notti, president of the AFN, told Tundra Times last week that Goldberg is expected to prominently mention the Alaska-native land claims problem in his address.

The former U.S. Supreme Court Justice and former United States Ambassador will be introduced to the audience by Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel who is also former Governor of Alaska.

The land claims task force will also be wrestling to smoothe over some of the differences that might exist among different regional native organizations in connection with the land claims.

Today's meeting was termed important by the native leadership in that it must iron out differences so the native people can present a unified front during the coming land claims legislation in the Congress of the United States.

(Editor's Note: Emil Notti today said the initial meeting will be confined to the board of the Alaska Federation of Natives but that it can easily be switched to the land task force meeting as all members of the board are task force members.)

The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Conference Room at the Kaloa Building, 1689 C Street in Anchorage.)