

Navy to Clean Point McIntyre

The Navy has moved to clean up debris at Point McIntyre on Alaska's North Slope at the entrance to Prudhoe Bay, Senator Stevens announced.

The former DEWline station has been used on an infrequent basis by Navy-sponsored research personnel and other private companies on a license basis.

The Alaska Commissioner of Natural Resources, Charles

Herbert, had characterized junk and debris at Point McIntyre as "by far the worst eyesore in the Arctic" in a letter asking Stevens to assist in a cleanup effort.

Stevens released contents of a letter from Rear Admiral W. D. Gaddis, ass't. dept. Chief of Naval Operations which said, "... it is difficult to determine under

what circumstances the accumulation of debris occurred and the extent of the cleanup effort required to correct the situation.

An investigation is being conducted to determine a feasible plan for corrective action, and the resources required. It is intended that appropriate corrective actions will be taken as soon as practicable.



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The Claims History...

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land loss. Besides setting aside 40 million acres for patent to Natives, the settlement act of December 18, 1971 established a ceiling of 335 million acres for lands lost. One cause for resentment among Natives opposed to that settlement stems not from the fact that Alaska Natives received 40 million acres of land in simple fee title, but from the fact that the act gave legal sanction to the theft of the other 335 million acres in Alaska.

Among Native land lost forever are included grants to the churches, military reserves, individual homesteaders, tracts deeded to resource developers and speculators, and national parks and forests and wildlife refuges. The Tanacross story is not an isolated example.

Chief Isaac's unheeded appeal for justice brings to mind similar observations of land loss made by Indian leaders of the "lower forty-eight" in the not-so-distant past.

Chief Eagle Wing, in 1881 autobiography, cited by T. C. McLuhan in "Touch the Earth," said, "My brothers, the Indians must always be remembered in this land. Out of our languages we have given names to many beautiful things which will always speak of us. Minnehaha will laugh of us, Seneca will shine in our image, Mississippi will murmur our woes. The broad Iowa and the rolling Dakota and the fertile Michigan will whisper our names to the sun that kisses them. The roaring Niagara, the sighing

Illinois, the singing Delaware, will chant increasingly our Dta-wa-e (Death Song). Can it be that you and your children will hear that eternal song without a stricken heart? We have been guilty of only one sin — we have had possessions which the white man coveted. We moved away toward the setting sun: we gave up our homes to the white man.

"My bretheren, among the legends of my people it is told how a chief, leading the remnant of his people, crossed a great river, and striking his tipi-stake upon the ground, exclaimed 'Alabama.' This in our language means, 'Here we may rest.' But he saw not the future. The white man came: he and his people could not rest there: they were driven out, and in a dark swamp they were thrust down into the slime and killed. The word he so sadly spoke has given a name to one of the white man's states. There is no spot under those stars that now smile upon us, where the Indian can plant his foot and sigh 'Alabama.' It may be that Wakanda will grant us such a place. But it seems that it will be only at His side."

When the Indians of the lower forty-eight were threatened with the loss of their land, they either fought and died and were placed on reservations or, in the words of Eagle Wing, "moved away toward the setting sun."

(Next week: Delayed 100 years)

Bush People Defense...

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contestants wanted to "give" the Natives.

Apparently, the urban leaders of the Native movement believe that no longer do the Natives, and particularly the bush Natives, need a strong Washington, D.C. effort; I say this because the urban leaders are trying to depose the Natives' most effective Washington, D.C. lobbyist they have.

It was very evident during the pre-settlement efforts that major interests were trying to cut down the land and money that the Natives wanted. Then, the Settlement Act was passed on December 18, 1971. Promptly, one month later, the Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs introduced H.R. 12386 and mislabeled it the Technical Amendments Bill. It was much more than making technical amendments. Had the bill passed, it would have substantially reduced the land rights of the Natives throughout the whole state. There was a similar bill introduced in the Senate at the same time.

Don was alert and led the killing of this bill.

But there have been other major assaults on the rights of the Natives during 1972. On May 27 and on August 10, Congress actually enacted two laws which forbade the use of the Natives' own money in organizing village corporations who did not qualify under the 1970 census.

I suspect that every region in Alaska has villages which are in fact villages but which according to the 1970 census would not qualify. We all know that the census takers in Alaska out in the bush do not necessarily do a good job.

This was a blatant attempt by very powerful people to cut down the land in bush Alaska so that some of the villages would not be organized and so that they, in turn, could not get

their fair share of the land supposedly set aside by Congress in the Settlement Act.

But I am not through yet. A couple of weeks ago the Secretary of the Interior published proposed regulations for land selections — providing the machinery for the regional and village corporations in making their actual land selections.

These proposed regulations would require that deficiency land selections must be contiguous and compact. There is no authority in the Settlement Act giving the Secretary the power to impose these restrictions. If the regulations become the law, it will materially restrict the regional corporations in their land selections. I have no doubt but what huge hunting grounds that the Native would otherwise be entitled to get, would be forbidden under the proposed regulations.

The point is that powerful interests in Washington, D.C. are mightily opposed to Native land rights and are still actively working to cut down the land and to give only worthless land to the Natives.

Who is going to protect bush Alaska in this ongoing defense of their lands?

Incalculable harm has, in my judgment, been rendered to bush Alaska by the fact of this current rebellion. Bush Alaska may lose, at least temporarily, its most effective spokesman in "D.C." And, so now, the Natives of Alaska are asked to depend upon some new officers.

NEXT WEEK: The new chairman, etc.

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