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Father I.V. Gromoff, right, shares a van ride with other Aleuts during hearings held in Unalaska in September of 1981. Gromoff was the Aleut member of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

PHOTO BY BILL HESS

Report terms World War II Aleut evacuation/internment 'deplorable,' not justifiable

By Bill Hess

Tundra Times

In a report made public last week, the special Presidential/Congressional commission looking into the World War II evacuation of the Aleuts from their homes said it was "a rational response to the danger presented," but that what happened afterwards in the refugee camps in Southeast Alaska was "deplorable," and could not be justified.

The Aleuts have not been compensated for their losses of

the time, the report concluded, and the history of the event has been largely forgotten by the American public, if indeed, it was ever aware of the episode at all.

"The Japanese attacked the two most western islands in the Aleutians chain in the summer of 1942 and took 42 Aleut prisoners," Joan Z. Bernstein, chairwoman of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, stated at a press conference held in Washington, D.C., last

Thursday.

"As part of the reaction to that attack, the military evacuated the Aleuts from a large part of the Aleutian chain. The evidence shows that the evacuation was a rational response," said Bernstein.

During hearings on the evacuation which took place in Alaska during September of 1981, a frequent complaint heard was that in Unalaska, only civilians with one-eighth blood or more were

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Ferguson seeks probe of Sheffield fund-raising trip

By Hal Spencer

The Associated Press

Juneau — Gov. Bill Sheffield's campaign fund-raising trip last month outside Alaska drew fire on two fronts Thursday, as a state senator called for an investigation of the trip and it was learned that the governor and two Cabinet members traveled part of the way on a plane owned by an energy company.

Sen. Frank Ferguson, D-Kotzebue, said state prosecutors should probe whether Sheffield, Attorney General Norman Gorsuch and Natural Resources Commissioner Esther Wunnicke last month broke conflict-of-interest law when they traveled to Dallas, Houston and Denver to raise oil money to pay off Sheffield's campaign debt.

Sheffield denied any wrongdoing. He said the trip was paid for with private money and he accused Ferguson of raising the issue as the legislature and governor fight over how to spend a \$200 million supplemental appropriation for capital improvements.

Al Parrish, chief of Sheffield Enterprises and head of the governor's campaign, said the plane transportation provided by Enserch Inc., of Dallas during the trip was not free and the Sheffield-McAlpine campaign would pay for

the travel.

"All the bills aren't in yet," Parrish said Thursday. "But I can tell you there was no free travel and no free lodging." He said the campaign would pay for all expenses incurred during the trip.

A major purpose of the trip was to raise money to help retire Sheffield's \$400,000 campaign debt. Another was to meet with Interior Secretary James Watt in Washington, D.C. — a meeting in which Sheffield accepted Watt's decision to sell petroleum leases in Norton Sound.

Pete Spivey, Sheffield's press secretary, said he understood that Sheffield, Gorsuch and Wunnicke were transported on the Enserch plane from New York to Dallas.

The two Cabinet members were not available for comment on what portion of the trip was taken on the Enserch plane. Gorsuch did not return telephone calls and Wunnicke was out of town.

But James Linxwiler, one of Gorsuch's former law partners in Ely, Guess & Rudd, said he traveled with the entourage on the Enserch plane from Houston to Dallas because "there was an extra seat."

Another former law part-

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Calista Corp. becomes major bank stockholder

By Linda Lord-Jenkins

Tundra Times

Following a policy of investment in quick profit ventures, the Calista Regional Corp. this week bought effective control of 24 percent of the stock of the Alaska National Bank of the North.

Calista spent some \$3.5 million to buy 209,000 shares of the stock at \$16.75 per share. The money was drawn from Calista's share of the Alaska Native Fund which was set up with the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Under terms of the purchase, the Bank of the North will increase its Board of Directors to include two Calista representatives.

The Calista purchase makes it the largest stockholder in the bank. Another large-scale investor in the Bank is the Bering Straits Native Corp. which owns 17 percent of the bank's common stock.

Calista President Alex Raider and Chairman of the Board Johnny Hawk were present at a press luncheon held last week to announce the deal.

Raider said that the Bethel-based Native corporation which only two years ago was suffering great financial problems expects to turn a handsome profit this year. At the press luncheon he estimated Calista would turn a \$1 million profit although he later declined to repeat that figure "until our annual report comes

out."

That report will be issued this week.

Raider said the bank acquisition reflects the Calista management's goal of turning a quick profit for the corporation which was as much as \$3 million in the red two years ago.

The Bank of the North itself was suffering financial problems but in 1981 the bank reported a net income of \$325,000 which increased to \$1,028,000 at the end of 1982. Bank deposits increased from \$187,445,000 in 1981 to \$221,809,000 in 1982.

Raider said he chose to have Calista become involved in the Bank of the North because it has the greatest po-

tential for return of profit of all the banks in the state.

"They (the bank) had problems that they solved. We caught them at the absolute best price. Their stock value is on the way up."

He estimated that Calista could see a 10 percent increase in the value of each share of stock in the first year.

Raider said that Calista chose to invest in the Bank of the North as opposed to the Native-owned United Bank of Alaska because UBA is now such a profitable company and would not show Calista as great a return on its investment. "To buy into UBA would not give us the same situation of quick profits."

Raider said that he doesn't

expect Calista's participation in the bank to mean a grater Bank of the North participation in financial affairs of Bush businesses. "That's not the intent."

Raider said that while Calista is making most of its public investments in "white collar" short term businesses and investments, it also is long-term investigating resource development.

Calista is working on a land transfer plan for St. Mathew Island which would allow Calista partial ownership of the island and could in turn lease it to oil companies for oil development in the Bering Sea. That deal is being struck with the Cook Inlet Native Association and Sea Lion Corp.