

Conservationists Might Snag Bill...

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challenge the land claim legislation is a move by conservationist forces in Congress to push for a comprehensive land use plan as a prerequisite for all state and Native land claims selections.

Supporters of the land claims bill fear the conservationists may have a great deal of strength on the floor of the House when the bill is reported out.

Development of a comprehensive land use plan would effectively freeze all land in Alaska for another five years—until such a plan is developed. This would allow environmentalists to probably prevent lea-

Chas. Edwardson..

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the ASNA executive director plans to live nearby.

Edwardson, known for his fiery and often controversial push for the rights of Alaska's Arctic Slope residents, does not expect his resignation to effect the position of the Arctic Slope in the land claims resolution.

"I'm going to win," Edwardson insisted. "We're going to get what we asked for."

Economy Not Bad at All

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than expected."

"One thing that hurt, the people here did gear up for Expansion," explains Wally Baer, Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce manager. "But the great majority are going to make it all right. And the lull has given us a chance to do some planning. A tremendous opportunity to avoid the complete boom and bust cycle."

Baer maintains his area has tremendous reserves of hard rock minerals, copper and timber. These, he thinks, can be developed along with oil when a road to the North Slope opens up the country.

He also believes settlement of the Native Land Claims is important.

"It's one of the biggest things we have on the horizon and I don't think many people realize it. There's a great deal of money funneled into Fairbanks. We have an opportunity to develop services here to fit the needs of the Bush."

State unemployment figures range from 13.8 to 25 per cent. Only skeleton crews now work on the slope but road and building construction have taken up some of the slack.

The University of Alaska has six major building projects in Fairbanks totalling \$20.4 million. A road is being completed to link Fairbanks and Anchorage via McKinley Park and there are many other highway and bush building projects continuing despite the Long Shore Strike.

James O'Rourke, head of the Fairbanks state employment office, expects a rough winter but notes there were less transients and better placement of local workers this summer than last.

Surfcote, assigned the job of protecting stored pipeline from weathering, is employing 65 to 80 men, seven days a week, 10 hours a day in Fairbanks and another crew on the Slope.

In Valdez, planned pipeline terminus, Surfcote employs 165 people, working two 10 hour shifts daily. The operation will continue at least until December. Six more loads of pipe are expected from Japan before the job is completed.

Valdez has been reported hard hit because of the pipeline holdup but Ed Walker, mayor pro tem, disagrees.

ses necessary for a trans Alaskan pipeline and other major projects.

The Senate Interior bill which was reported out on Wednesday included provisions for a joint federal-state land use planning commission with jurisdiction over all selected land and for a transportation and recreation corridor.

Meanwhile, as widely differing proposals become included in various land claims bill debate centers around the various bills' main provisions. Differences between House and Senate versions, which must be ironed out before any land claims bill is finally enacted.

In the main provisions of cash, revenue sharing, distribution, regional corporations and the all important land, the two pending bills are as follows:

The bill reported out by the Senate Interior Committee last week provides for a cash appropriation of \$500 million in land claims money over 12 years without interest. It also provides for a 2 per cent royalty upon leaseable minerals, not including T/A lands, also not including the

September 1969 bonuses—up to \$500 million.

The Senate bill provides two land options. Number one would award 40 million acres in fee. Option number two would award 50 million acres 24 million in fee, 6 million in surface title and 20 million under a revocable permit system. Under this plan, native people would vote on which option they would accept.

Seven regional corporations, under the Senate bill, would administer the funds, but individual villages would choose their land and maintain title as village corporations.

Under the bill reported out by the House Interior Affairs Subcommittee, Alaskan natives would receive \$425 million over 10 years—without interest. They would receive a 2 per cent royalty on leaseable minerals, not including T/A'd land, up to \$500 million.

The House subcommittee bill would award 40 million acres of land in fee title. This would include up to 20 million acres around villages awarded before state selection, the rest after.

The House subcommittee bill would recognize 12 Regional Corporations who would have control over part of the land, the money and leaseable minerals in their area.

Book Review...

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ren land when he has seen its beauty in the summer, inherited his people's love for the land which gave them home, food and sustenance. He resents the uninformed "experts" of the world who have popularly typified his people as savages who rub noses, live in ice houses and exchange wives.

As a child, he remembers thinking, upon reading these books described people "further north." For he knew, of course, that this could not be his people, his wonderful warm families and villages, of which they spoke.

Strongest in this book, with its many pages of poetic English, is the story of Willie Senungetuk, Innupiat hunter of Wales and what he thought and did for the sake of his five children. His is a tradition of pride, of satisfaction and of physical hardship for the good of his family. Senungetuk writes with great love and perception of his parents and their generation—brainwashed by the missionary, putting aside much of their past to conform to the white man's idea of what is right, good and Godly.

The story of the Senungetuks is a chronicle that only an Eskimo, perhaps could write, someone whose memories of childhood are inextricably woven together with his father as hunter, the traditions of his people, the memories of a people who send their winter discards out on sleds pulled by their children—so that a careless sled dog would not upset a sled and dump their garbage on the land.

Joseph Senungetuk is also a talented artist who has included many of his beautiful works in his book. It is by all means a book worth reading. If it does not hang together as one book, many of its chapters hang separately so well that the book is worth reading for these chapters alone. A month after publication, "Give or Take a Century" is on its way to becoming an Alaskan classic.

NOTE: "Give or Take a Century" is available for \$12.95 per copy by writing to the Indian Historian Press, Inc. 1451 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco, California 94117.



LAND CLAIMS DELIBERATIONS—Doug Jones legislative assistant to Senator Mike Gravel and Ester Wunnicke, Alaska state representative for land claims deliberations confer with the Alaskan Senator over the new senate claims bill.

Photo by TOM RICHARDS, JR.

AEC Internal Report...

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that test and has urged the President to cancel it.

In a Senate Floor statement today releasing the secret AEC report, Senator Gravel said the AEC "justifies its extensive public relations effort to 'sell MILROW on a basis of 'good guys' vs. 'bad guys.'"

"Nowhere in the report is there a recognition that opposition to the test may be based on scientific accuracy or that it may be honestly motivated."

Senator Gravel described how the AEC purposely misled the press with erroneous statements. He cited an instance where the AEC boasted of waging a calculated campaign to win over a prominent Alaska newspaper

editor.

He quoted from the report's description of an Alaskan who headed a statewide group opposed to MILROW and termed the reference, "slandorous."

Senator Gravel said that the public relations effort to sell CANNIKIN is even more expensive and elaborate.

He said he was calling the matter to the Senate's attention "not to beat ghosts of past errors, but because the issue is very much alive today. CANNIKIN is upon us and the selling job is all too familiar."

Senator Gravel inserted the entire AEC report in the September 15 Congressional Record.

\$62,000 Grant—Hope Center Gets \$ 35,000

Grants totalling \$62,000 have been awarded three Alaskan institutions for specialized care of natives, U.S. Senator Ted Stevens reports.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs grants include \$35,000 for the

Hope Center, 117 Slater Drive, Fairbanks; \$14,000 for the Hospitality House, 1401 Kellum

Street, Fairbanks; and \$1300 for the Receiving Home, Box 115 Juneau.

Analyzing Bill Difficult..

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Both Stevens and Gravel favored much of the land-use planning proposals, but clashed over the pipeline corridor ("Recreation and Transportation Corridor") Provision.

Stevens said that he felt it was a good idea to have the corridor included in planning provisions and that it would guarantee close federal supervision of pipeline construction.

Gravel, says Stevens, opposed the corridor because Alyeska did not favor it.

A Gravel spokesman responded that congressional action on the corridor was unnecessary and could even trigger longer delays prior to pipeline construction.

The two Alaska senators also argued bitterly over the issue of non-competitive leasing would bring more revenues and Stevens insisting that there would be no demand for leases on that basis.

Gravel and Jackson differed on the number of regions in the post-settlement structure; Jackson wanted 7 and Gravel 12, so the chairman got 7.

Stevens introduced an amendment to require all natives who have allotments pending to choose between getting title to their allotments or losing all benefits under the land claims bill.

Eager young lawyers, he states, enticed natives into filing 10,999 allotments on some of

the best land in Alaska. They could not demonstrate occupancy and would tie up development during the slow process of adjudicating their claims.

A Gravel spokesman responded that there are 2,000 and not 10,000 allotments pending. Furthermore, if native allotments are to be repealed, should not homesteading suffer the same fate.

Gravel is reported to be considering that all natives on Indian reservations in Alaska be given the same option as Veneti and Metlakatla in retaining their reservation land.

As the bill now stands, reservation land will not be terminated and those villages on reservations will have to file new selections based on the bills land formula.

Notably silent are spokesmen for the Alaska Federation of Natives. AFN President Don Wright, state Senator Willie Hensley, and Arctic Slope Executive Director Charles Edwardson, Jr., have told newsmen only that the bill is currently undergoing comprehensive review by Alaska native representatives.

The House Interior Committee will resume mark-up on its land claims bill Wednesday. Although optimistic about the meeting, Alaska Congressman Nick Begich stated he could not be very certain about the outcome of the session.