



SENATORS RUE HOUSING FUND DROP



CLOSED SESSION—Tanana Chiefs Conference delegates are listening to their attorney, Tom Fenton of Fairbanks, as they thrashed out 14 resolutions they approved at the meeting. From left around the stove: Edmund Titus, Minto; Mrs. Carol Lowe, Galena; Mary Holland,

VISTA Volunteer; Carl Moses representing Chalkyitsik and Fort Yukon; George Winer, Beaver; Henry Wiehl, Rampart; Alfred Grant, Tanana; John Borbridge, Jr., PHS; Roy Folger, Tanana; backs to camera are Ruby Tansy, Cantwell; and Tom Fenton.

Senate Floor Scene Of Stiff Criticism Of Funding Refusal

Still smarting over the deletion by the Conference Committee of the Senate and House of the \$1 million that would have launched the Alaska native housing program, Senators E. L. Bartlett of Alaska, Warren G. Magnuson of the State of Washington, and S. L. Holland of Florida, discussed the subject last Thursday on the floor of the Senate.

"...I must admit I was disappointed and deeply hurt upon learning that the conferees had failed to accept the Senate figure of \$1 million which would have been used for the launching of an Alaska native housing program," Senator Bartlett said.

The native housing bill had passed last year and it was signed by President Lyndon Johnson. The measure called for \$10 million.

(Upon learning that the \$1

million had failed to get approval, the Alaska Federation of Natives conference in Anchorage passed a resolution that a bill be introduced in the next session of Congress to restore the initial native housing fund.)

Sen. Bartlett lauded Senators Magnuson and Gordon Allott of Colorado for their efforts to make housing money available to Alaska.

"I was not a conferee on the bill, but I heard from Senators who were on the conference committee that the Senator from Washington fought hard and valiantly for this \$1 million item which was for people. I know it was through no fault of his that the figure of \$1 million was not accepted," Bartlett said.

"I want to thank my friend from Washington now," Bartlett continued, "and likewise the Senator from Colorado, for having done their very best to have this program adopted. I trust that the administration will again ask for an appropriation next January and that Congress will approve it, because if ever there was a need for something to be done for people, this is it."

In replying, Senator Magnuson said that he didn't

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Commerce Dept. Responds to Call For Native Hire

In response to a call from Senator E. L. Bartlett that all federal agencies operating in Alaska develop programs to bring about higher levels of native employment, the U. S. Department of Commerce reported that it was actively recruiting native employees for three of its programs.

The Commerce Department was the first of the eight federal departments contacted by Senator Bartlett to respond to the inquiry.

Wade B. Ropp, deputy director of personnel for the department, told the Senator that the department was training 13 natives to be hired as meteorologist technicians.

The department employs 109 meteorologist technicians or weather observers. Ropp reported that there was an annual turnover of about 20 weather observers a year, which would create future employment openings.

"The Commerce Department has learned what Alaskans have known for a long time. It makes more sense to hire Alaskans who will stay on the job than to hire out-of-staters who come and go at government expense," Bartlett said.

Ropp also said that there

Tanana Chiefs Vote to Join AFN, Discuss Land Claims

One enlightening development at the Tanana Chiefs Conference in Tanana last weekend was when the Chiefs and delegates voted unanimously to join the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Tanana Chiefs is the first major organization to vote itself into working partnership with statewide native organization.

Fourteen resolutions were passed including one with specific recommendations on the location of the location of a U. S. Public Health

hospital.

Other recommendations were made on land claims, regional high schools, Department of Rural Affairs, airport capital improvement program, legal aid, road construction, radio communications and other matters.

The first day of the conference was devoted mostly to health matters in which PHS officials took important parts.

Dr. Charles Nielson, deputy area director of the USPHS Alaska Native Health Area

SECTARIAN BILL PASSES SENATE

Senate has passed legislation introduced by Senator Gruening and cosponsored by Senator Bartlett which would allow recipients of Bureau of Indian Affairs scholarships to attend sectarian institutions of higher learning.

Senator Gruening pointed out that passage of bill would permit Alaskas Native recipients of BIA scholarships to attend two sectarian institutions in Alaska, Alaska Methodist University in Anchorage and Sheldon Jackson Junior College in Sitka.

Purpose of S. 876, Senator Gruening said, "Is to remove an outworn obstacle to the pursuit of higher education by Indian students qualifying for certain federal education aids. It would accomplish this by deleting from a 1917 act a prohibition against appropriation of federal funds for education of Indian children in any sectarian school."

For purposes of the statute, "Indian" has been held to include Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts.

Office told the conference that "we are not here to tell you or decide for you; we invite you to indicate to us your wishes and thoughts on health matters."

On the subject of a new hospital, Warren Griffin, chief of the Office of Program Planning and Evaluation, stated:

"We are not here to sell a decision; we invite you to share in, and assume, responsibility for an important decision regarding the location of a new hospital facility for the Tanana Service Unit."

Various criteria utilized by the Alaska Native Health area staff were explained and discussed at length with the resulting possibilities:

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Editorial— 'The Web of Circumstance'

President of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Emil Notti, read the telegram Senator E. L. Bartlett sent to the organization's convention in Anchorage two weeks ago that the Conference Committee of the House and Senate had turned thumbs down on the \$1 million

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Larry Brayton Chosen ASCAP Exec. Director

The Alaska State Community Action Program held its meeting last week in the City of Ketchikan and elected Larry Brayton as its new executive director.

Brayton was chosen because of his proven ability to develop effective programs when he served as director of the North Star Borough Community Action Agency in Fairbanks.

Marlene Johnson of Hoonah was elected new ASCAP president succeeding Daniel Lisbourne of Point Hope.

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