

Hist. Society Meets Nov. 18

JUNEAU—The Alaska Historical Society will have a reorganizational conference Nov. 18 and 19, in Anchorage. Co-sponsored by the Alaska State Museum and the Alaska State Historical Society, the conference is expected to bring together representatives of historical groups from throughout Alaska.

Commerce Dept.

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were employment opportunities for Alaska natives as members of the department's Coast and Geodetic Survey vessel which operates out of Seattle charting Alaskan waters.

Under the President's back-to-school program, the Commerce Department hires high school students for \$1.90 an hour for 16 hours a week. Robb said. The department also conducts student co-operative programs in which employees divide their time between work and study leading to better paying jobs.

Bartlett said the department's efforts to encourage native hire were "most encouraging" and established a target at which other government agencies should shoot.

The Senator contacted federal agencies active in Alaska after a study of federal employment in the state indicated that while native people made up one-fifth of the state's population, they held only one-tenth of the jobs.

Bartlett called upon the agencies to implement the three recommendations made in the study. The recommendations were:

To review their equal employment opportunity programs.

To modify those programs to bring about higher levels of native employment.

To establish target levels of minority employment by June 30.

The study was made by the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska.

Brayton Chosen Director . . .

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while Al Ketzler of Nenana was chosen vice president. Marjorie Freeman of Anchorage was named secretary-treasurer.

Marlene Johnson and Ketzler are target area representatives in the Southeastern and Interior respectively while Marjorie Freeman is the Parent Teacher Association representative.

Board member, Hugh Nicholls of Barrow, jolted the meeting when he read the Alaska Federation of Natives' resolution that explorations be made whether the Economic Opportunity Programs can be handled directly from the Indian Desk in Washington, D. C., working regionally in Alaska.

This resulted in lively discussion. Dave Wharton, the Office of Economic Opportunity regional coordinator out of the San Francisco office questioned Nicholls what he would propose to rectify the situation without causing complete disruption of the existing program.

After the election of the



HOSPITAL INSPECTION—Public Health Service hospital facility in Tanana was one of the important subjects at the annual Tanana Chiefs Conference last weekend. During the conference, from left to right, Dr. Kent Jones, head doctor at PHS's Tanana hospital, Senator Brad Phillips, president

of the Alaska Legislative Council, and Ken Carson, Gov. Hickel's representative in Fairbanks, inspected the facility. The little girl in front of Dr. Kent is Sen. Phillips young daughter.

Guide Tests . . . Senators Criticize Committee . .

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Those making a passing grade on the written will be scheduled for the oral.

Hinman said the test will be given only to resident Alaskans, who are at least 21 years of age.

Hinman said a large number of applicants usually fail the test because of inadequate preparation. Those planning to take the test are welcomed at the Fish and Game office, where instructions will be given as to what to study.

An appointment should be made to take the test before November 13.

know of any one item in the bill that the Senate could not prevail on "which disappointed me—as well as the Senator from Colorado—so much as this comparatively small item to begin some decent and well-thought out housing for the natives of Alaska. Actually, it was a health program, when we come right down to it."

Sen. Spessard Holland said he was glad that Senator Magnuson brought out the health point of view "because all the conferees stood back of the Senator from Washington and the Senator from Colorado, both of whom made it clear that the prevalence of tuberculosis in such a great degree among those impoverished and not properly housed aborigines—for that is what they are—was something that should be corrected."

"If stronger arguments could have been made, I do not see how they could have been made, or if a more unified position had been taken on the part of the Senate conferees, I do not see how that could have been done."

"However, the situation existing right now in connection with the economy is almost indescribable. There are many who regarded the program as economical. This, to me, appears to be false economy."

"This program is certainly not uneconomical. I think it was the unanimous attitude of the conferees, unless we wanted to have no bill, that it was one of the several items which had to be eliminated."

Sen. Magnuson concurred and said the point was made at the conference committee that the program was a new one that might

lead to the expenditure of a large sum of money, even though the bill, which had been passed practically unanimously, put a ceiling on the authorization for a period of time.

"Of course, it is penny-wise and found foolish, because if those people are to continue to have a health problem—as they certainly will under the present kind of housing they must endure—the Indian Service, the NIH, or others will have to take care of it anyway," reasoned Sen. Magnuson.

"This program," Magnuson continued, "is the way to provide them with some decent habitation. It would not even really be decent housing, the way we think of it, but it certainly would be better housing than now exist, so that these people would not be so susceptible to tuberculosis, which is now spreading among them like wildfire. We acted on that basis."

Magnuson thought, however, that there was a question of timing. The House of Representatives, he said, did not have the proper testimony early enough; that there was a failure on the part of the Alaska State government to clearly outline its participation although, he said, he did not criticize its motives.

"The timing was bad when the State government wanted Congress to take care of the whole program and not take care of the administrative costs themselves under the Alaskan Housing Authority," Magnuson said.

He added that after a lot of prodding from Congress and others, the State did finally agree to carry the administrative costs.

"This program was brought in," he said. "By that time,

the House had planted its feet in concrete and would not do anything about it."

Magnuson reiterated that he was not criticizing the motives of anybody but that there was a question of timing.

"This program is the best way, the cheapest way, the low cost way of solving the problem that will have to be taken care of some day soon," he said.

Magnuson recalled Senator Bartlett's discussion of the problem that employment in the native areas of the State was sporadic depending on the fish run. If the fish run was good, the native people were able to supplement their earnings and make a living. Otherwise, they were unemployed.

The Senator from Washington said that the native housing proposal was a well-thought out program.

"The action taken by the conferees, however, is something I cannot understand," the Senator said. "In agreeing with the Senator from Florida, I think that some of the actions taken in the last few days have been pennywise and found foolish in the name of economy."

"All of us are for economy, but there are things that the Nation can afford for the needs of the people, and the needs of the people, and the Alaskan natives are citizens of the United States. They have a rough, rugged time of living. I am disappointed in the action that has been taken."

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