

Regional Schools . . .

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the members of the THEATA Club of the University of Alaska, a native student organization on the campus.

The session was under the direction of the THEATA president Miss Reva Wulf who introduced Hartman to the members. She also introduced Vic Fisher, director of the Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research as "the head of the Institute of Everything."

Commissioner Hartman said that the State started with the idea of placing 215 rural students in foster homes and succeeded in placing 194 that although that the result was not too bad, it was also not successful.

"In large schools, a student practically loses his own identity—he becomes a number," Hartman said.

He also said that a student should not necessarily be tied to a grade level; that this was an archaic manner of conducting high schools.

Hartman cited the Community College in Anchorage and its comprehensive program in adult education and that it gave credit for experiences to the older students who wished to get high school diplomas and that it was the only institution in the State that is doing this work.

He also said that in the event regional high schools are established that certain specializations could be instituted. Some schools should be connected with community colleges to take care of shortcomings.

"Some students can adjust but not all of them," Commissioner said. "They can't break away from their cultural backgrounds all at once."

Hartman said that he was hopeful that "halfway houses" for the purpose of preparing high school graduates for college education might be established and

that such a supplementary school could be established at University of Alaska.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School near Sitka entered into the discussion. Some of the former students of that school had been dissatisfied. One former student said, "I hated it."

Mrs. Nettie Peratrovich, a former Mt. Edgecumbe student herself, thought that the school was too drastic a change for students from the northern part of Alaska.

She said the Eskimo students tended to congregate together while the Indian students did the same. She said that the Indians were more fortunate because they were closer to home; that their parents and relatives came to see them occasionally; that when there were trips for competitive sports, Indians could visit with their families and relatives and have places to stay.

Woodrow Morrison of Hyaburg agreed:

"In Southeastern Alaska there's so much rain—about 100 to 150 inches a year—which they're not used to. That's one thing that dampens their spirit right then."

Commissioner Hartman said that some fine steps had been taken in recent years that Mt. Edgecumbe was slated for improvement up to around \$6 million; that William Beltz High School was to have a \$2 million expansion and that \$5 million the State legislature authorized would probably be used in its entirety to build a high school in Bethel.

"We are recognizing the impatient Alaskans on their demands for better education," he said. "Regional high school is the place to start. We want to get away from sending the students too far away—from sending them out."

Special Freezers For Villages

A \$132,862 grant to the University of Alaska's Arctic Environmental Engineering Laboratory from the Economic Development Administration has been announced by Dr. Charles E. Behlke, director of the research group.

The grant will be used to develop a special village freezer unit that will provide a means for cold storage of meat through summer months in remote Alaska communities.

Using a concentrated brine solution, a cold source for preserving meat that will not be dependent on electricity will be developed.

Mercurieff . . .

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er Mekiana of Anaktuvik Pass who passed away on Christmas Day.

Homer was a postmaster at the time. Along with Simon Paneak, Homer Mekiana was well known to scientists who visited the area numerous times on scientific assignments.

The two men have often been consulted for their superb knowledge of animals and the Brooks Range country area.

BETHEL . . .

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"wrong and distorted."

Nicholson also charged, "It does not appear that the primary purpose of this letter was intended as a recommendation to the Council, but rather for publicity."

In his latest reply, William Jacobs wrote:

"It is not the objective of this office to engage in debate in the newspapers. Our responsibility is to represent the people of Alaska who are poor, of which Bethel has its share."

"In my letter I referred to statements made to us by such people in your city. These statements were made in confidence and it is our firm policy to maintain such confidence."

Nicholson also wrote, "The members of the Bethel City Council are elected in accordance with the Alaska State statutes, as I presume they are in all incorporated sub-divisions of the State."

Jacobs replied, "No one has indicated that council elections have been held in violation of Alaska statutes, or that voter turnout has been low."

"People did say, however, that they had lost interest in council proceedings because they could not adequately follow the business of the council in English."

"Mr. Hoffman of the council, confirmed this lack of interest in his recent press interview. Since some sources attribute it to a greater interest in 'shows every night and bingo every Thursday,' there is an obvious difference of opinion about the case."

Edward Hoffman, Sr., a six-year member of the Bethel City Council, had told the press in Anchorage this week about the Bethel Eskimo citizens, "All they think about are the shows every night and bingo every Thursday."

Jacobs continued, "Since we are all interested in good democratic government, it is time to find a constructive solution by working together. The democratic process allows for resolution of differences where precise scientific information is not available and some of those concerned desire to remain anonymous."

"Would the council be willing," Jacobs wrote a concluding question, "to initiate a referendum on the next general election ballot on the proposition whether or not council meetings should regularly be conducted in both Eskimo and English?"

Drama Unfolds . . .

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ittee, the State and the federal Interior Department, to the village heads gathered in Bethel.

Betzi Woodman, who was present at the meeting, said that Groh went into great detail explaining pertinent points of the proposed bill.

"He has worked very hard for a long time with the native people and their organizations on land matters," said Betzi Woodman.

Just before noon Wednesday, Cliff Groh told his audience:

"It's nearly noon and it's almost time for lunch. I will answer questions as long as anyone has any but I will have to leave tonight."

"When I got off the plane this morning, a phone call was waiting for me from my wife. She told me my father

had died in New York. I must leave to attend the services."

"It is because of my father why I spent so much time on these matters. He was an emigrant. He could not speak English well—nor did he have an education."

"He worked hard to persuade people—all of us—to get educated—"

"I think that this is a good lesson for you—"

Overcome with emotion, Cliff Groh could not go on from there. His voice broke. He made a gesturing motion to the audience and sat down.

"What he said to the audience was translated," said Betzi Woodman. "You could feel something—a wave of sympathy that passed over the group."

Bill Recommendations

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getting 40 million acres and will fight for it."

Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, had this to say earlier:

"There were a few hot spots during the meeting but nobody really flared up. Every point that came out of this meeting has been agreed upon only after serious debate. Many considerations were weighed including what was considered within the realm of possible attainment."

At the end of the Juneau meeting, Rep. Hensley said he believed the legislation will have the endorsement of the state administration and hopes it will have the support of the Interior Department.

He also said the Task Force had met with Dr. Carl McMurray, Governor Walter Hickel's executive assistant, and Edgar P. Boyko, State Attorney General, on matters that had not been quite agreed upon.

He said these concerned the Task Force recommendations that Alaska native groups receive five per cent of all future revenues from state-owned lands, including tidelands, and proposals of means of lifting the land freeze to the satisfaction of the native groups, the state and the federal government.

The five per cent the Task Force asked for in its recommendation would not

apply on lands currently producing state revenue.

Hensley said the Task Force favors lifting of the land freeze on terms fair to all parties but that this was being held up by the legislative details that have not been agreed upon.

The following are recommendations that will be written into the proposed state and federal legislation:

—A gross land settlement of 40 million acres to be distributed to native villages.

—A ten per cent share of all revenues from mineral development on the federally owned Continental Shelf.

—A guarantee of hunting and fishing rights for the native people on lands used by them for those purposes that would be terminated if the lands are subsequently put to uses that would preclude hunting and fishing.

—Provide lands for villages located within federal reserves or land withdrawals or those bounded by land patented by third parties.

—A 100,000 acre area of forest land settlement from the national forest in Alaska.

—A creation of a nine-member commission to administer the land claims settlement that would be composed of native members, the state and the federal.

—An enactment of a Native Corporation Act permitting the incorporation of native groups similar to business incorporations.

Eskimo Olympics Poster Contest . . .

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Eskimo Olympics in Fairbanks that will take place on August 8-9-10, 1968.

Only two colors must be used by the contestants. The poster must be eye-catching and very Alaskan or Canadian.

The posters will be judged for originality of design, use of color and how well they

tell the story of the Eskimo Olympics.

Nonprofessional native artists from six to 70 years old are eligible to enter the contest.

Entry blank should be made up in the following manner:

Enclosed is my entry in the World Eskimo Olympics Poster Contest

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

I hereby give the World Eskimo Olympics the right to use my entry or any portion thereof in any manner they desire in promoting the celebration and I understand that I will receive no money for this design.

Signature _____

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