

## Blodgett Would Spend A-67 Relief Funds on Lunch Program

State Senator Robert R. "Bob" Blodgett took a swipe at the Alaska 67's financial difficulties in a release to the news media this week.

"I did not support A-67," Blodgett said. "I cannot see celebrating 91 years of colonialism."

"We are boxed in. If \$2 million is appropriated to bail A-67 out surely then

we should have enough compassion for our fellow man to push through a \$2 million hot lunch program for some 5500 children in our state rural schools.

"All expenditures and contracts pertaining to A-67 should be audited by the legislative audit committee of the legislature."

## Alaska - a Good Credit Risk . . .

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with a figure of about \$20 million which will increase substantially during 1969 even without any new discoveries and will be in excess of \$30 million in 1970. Put another way, this will amount to an income to the State of about \$100 per capita. On a per capita basis this would be a very high figure compared to other states where the majority of the royalties are paid to individuals who own the mineral rights.

"Alaska has a minor amount of fee land and we are returned 90 percent of the royalties, bonuses and rentals on Federal lands. It is important to note that with modern-day oil industry conservation practices, that this income to Alaska will continue for the next quarter-of-a-century and, of course, increase with new production.

"Now let me move on to new plants and plans for the future. Tomorrow, Chevron Asphalt Company, a Subsidiary of Standard Oil Company of California, will dedicate their asphalt topping plant at Nikiski. We will now produce our own asphalt for our highway paving program. On July 25 we will hold our 20th State Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale of 311,250 acres in the Cook Inlet area. From the interest shown by the industry I would expect this to be a lively sale. At this time I can only say that I hope each company, or group of companies, bids high enough to acquire the leases of their choice.

"Later this year Chugach Electric's Beluga River Gas Generating Plant will be in operation; more royalty income from gas production. In November, the first tanker will lift crude from the new Drift River Terminal on the West side of Cook Inlet. This terminal will handle exceptionally large tankers, and I hope there will be no problem with the Jones Act. As some of you know, we have defied the Jones Act in an effort to draw attention to the unfairness of applying it to a state surrounded by two foreign powers: (Canada and Russia), and we think we will succeed in getting it changed.

"The reason the Jones Act affects us more than the South 48 is that we are not contiguous to other states. Our two closest neighbors are foreign nations and one of our great potential customers is another foreign nation, Japan. Where the Jones Act was applicable and necessary many years ago in the South 48 it does not fit Alaska's unique situation and should be removed or modified to our benefit and satisfaction due to our unique geographical location.

"You have but to look at a globe and you can readily see that we are a top of a continent and at the headwaters of the Pacific. In many instances it appears that we are more of a country than just another state, and the further development of our native industry will depend in part on the Federal Government's recognition of this fact.

"In the summer of 1968 two more permanent platforms will be installed in Cook Inlet.

"In November 1968, Collier Carbon and Chemical Corporation's (a Union Oil Company Subsidiary) Ammonia-Urea Plant Fertilizer Complex is expected to be in operation. The ammonia plant will be the largest on the west coast and the urea plant the largest in the world, producing 1,000 tons per day. This complex will represent a fifty million dollar investment, with Japan Gas-Chemical Company participating in the urea plant. Since the complex will utilize a large amount of natural gas as feedstock, our gas production will increase as well as our royalty income.

"Late in 1969 Phillips and Marathon's Liquefaction Plant is expected to be in operation. This plant, the world's largest, and special tankers represent an investment of over 125 million dollars to provide liquified gas for Japan. With these new plants going into operation it is extremely important to note that the products will be competing in the world-wide market. We appreciate the Japanese investments and the State will continue to encourage these investors.

"I came here to talk to you about Alaska, to share with you our visions of the State's future, to tell you what we are doing to help Alaska realize its great potential, and to invite you to also participate. To be frank, Alaska's BAA credit rating on the New York Bond Market is not good, and I think it should be changed because it is not justified. Credit is based on one's ability to repay, and Alaska's ability to repay is as great as any state in the Union or greater. The general growth of the State shows that.

"Finally, looked at from a broad approach, Alaska's general obligation is but a small part of its ability to repay. Current interpretation of Alaska's credit situation slows down our rate of economic development, and we have invited you here to help us correct this problem."



AN AERIAL VIEW—Of the 40-acre Alaska 67 Centennial Exposition site in Fairbanks, Alaska, shows an authentic Gold Rush Town and resurrected 229-foot sternwheeler in the middle, right-hand side of the photograph. The large building and two geodesic domes in the center house a Performing Arts theater, art gallery, the U.S. Pavillion, and many U.S. and foreign exhibits. There is a

large and authentic Mining Valley to the left of the domes. Behind the domes is a Wilderness Park-Marina area, and nestled against the Chena River is the A-67 Native Village and "Bonanzaland," Alaska's biggest amusement park. The Exposition, official site of Alaska's Centennial celebrations, will be open daily through September 30.

—Alaska 67 Photo

## Hickel Asks Shriver's Help . . .

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resources you have available to make our Alaska a better Alaska for tomorrow.

"A new look and fresh ideas are always welcome in our state."

Shriver, who toured Alaska earlier this month, has called living conditions endured by many Alaskans in remote areas as "appalling as any in the world."

While here, Shriver told the governor the key to alleviating poverty lies in bolstering and broadening the state's economic base through constant efforts to upgrade

present industries and economic resources and by attracting new ones."

Shriver indicated in conversations with Hickel that he would be enthusiastic about pooling state and federal OEO efforts.

In a letter to Shriver—the former director of the Peace Corps and a close advisor to President Kennedy—Hickel said:

"Your visit to Alaska to gain first-hand information was greatly appreciated. I'm sure, from our discussions, that you have a good

knowledge of some of the problems that face our state.

"We have already moved for development of the timber resources in the Interior and Western Alaska," Hickel added, "and better utilization of the fisheries industry through new methods of processing and innovation in fisheries development has been started."

"As I discussed with you," Hickel continued, "transportation for the Arctic, which will include a railroad to the Nome area and a winter road system is also of prime importance."

"To carry out all of these vital projects," the governor concluded in the letter, "we need the collective resources of the people in the rural areas of Alaska. By implementing these programs, it will assist these people to make the transition from a subsistence economy to the cash economy of our world today.

"Hopefully, their traditions and culture which they have to be proud of will not be lost in this transition."

Hickel said Kris Lethin, director of the Alaska Office of Economic Opportunity, is working with OEO officials in Washington to get the state-federal task force functioning.

## Lula Young . . .

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requires that one member of the board be selected from a rural, state-operated school district, such as Ft. Yukon.

Other members of the board are:

Ralph C. Baily, Fairbanks; Dr. Walter A. Soboleff, Juneau; Mrs. Doris Wilke, Nome; Keith M. Lesh, Anchorage; A.D. Robertson, Ketchikan, and George E. Smith, Palmer.

Mrs. Young was born and raised in Ft. Yukon. She is presently a member of the Governor's Remote Housing Task Force and active in the Legislative Wives' Club and the Ft. Yukon Dog Musers. The Youngs have two children, Dawn, 2, and Joni, 4.

## SQUARE DRUM, PRETTY GIRLS . . .

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in the Eskimo Olympics queen contest this year," beamed Laura Bergt.

Girls that will definitely take part are from the following cities, towns and villages: Barrow, Inuvik, N.W.T., Kotzebue, Midnight Sun Princess, Nome, Arctic Native Brotherhood Princess, Nome, Cook Inlet Native Association Princess, Anchorage, Miss Upward Bound, University of Alaska, College, Miss Fairbanks Native Association, Fairbanks, Miss Hooper Bay, and Miss Fort Yukon.

Mrs. Dorothy Perdue, chairman of the Olympics queen contest is expecting contestants from Minto, Unalakleet, St. Mary's, Southeastern Alaska, Kodiak, Point Hope and others.

"I think Simon Paneak of Anaktuvuk Pass will be here and he may perform imitations of moose, ducks, dogs, ravens, ptarmigans, wolves and other animals," said Laura Bergt. "I've heard him. He does them so well it's weird to listen to him."

There will be other novel additions in this year's Eskimo Olympics.

"Pete Sovalik and his dancers at Barrow are reviving some ancient dances and some that are done with a square drum," Laura revealed. "I've never heard of that one—dances done to a 'Square drum.'"

She said when she was at Barrow recently, Pete Sovalik

had already started working on the drum. Pete also said he and others may have enough time to make a new kayak to enter in the kayak races at the Olympics.

"Bring your own kayak," Laura said. "Don't worry about the transportation for it."

She said the contestants should also furnish their own harpoons for the harpoon throwing contest and women should bring their own ulus for the seal skinning contest—a very popular event at the Olympics.

Northway and Tetlin will bring their dancers, as well as St. Mary's, Kotzebue, and, perhaps, King Island dancers from Nome.

Mel Brown of Unalakleet is expected to represent his village in the athletic events. Mel has been a varsity basketball player at the University of Alaska before he graduated.

There will be muktuk eating contests, knuckle hop contests, and others.

Minto will take to the river to bring its dancers and contestants to the Olympics.

Come one, come all. The World Eskimo Olympics is bigger and more exciting than ever before.

"It's getting so big I'm a little frightened," said Chairman Laura Bergt.

The big event takes place August 9-12. And don't forget, Inuvik is bringing its Drum Dancers.