

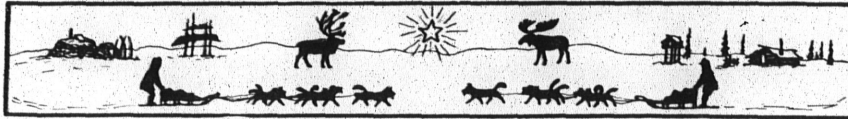
# Tundra Times

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Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak



Tlingit  
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

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## WELFARE SYSTEM CRITICIZED

### Shortcomings Raked, Budgeting Far Too Low

By MADELYN SHULMAN  
Staff Writer

As a team of staff members from the State Department of Health and Social Services, led by Commissioner Fred McGinnis, crisscrossed Alaska in recent weeks to hold hearings a multitude of serious health and welfare programs emerged.

From Ketchikan to Unalakleet, Petersburg to Unalaska, Fairbanks, Anchorage and Sitka experts and victims recited the shortcomings of the state's health care officials and community agencies testified as to what their communities were doing to alleviate these problems.

Welfare budgets, protested a series of people who testified, are unrealistically low.

"Aid to Dependent Children provides a dollar amount too low to sustain life," protested Ted Drahne, an employee of COMPASS who also testified earlier as to the drastic need for alcoholism rehabilitation money and services in the Fairbanks area.

Welfare clients in Fairbanks find it impossible to find decent housing, according to Bernice Aldrich, a member of the Governor's Advisory Board on Welfare.

Mrs. Aldrich protested the lack of entry level jobs in the

welfare bureaucracy. This, the Commissioner replied, is being opened up by a new series of staff positions for social workers, correctional officers and probation officers which will not require standard educational qualifications.

The new entry level positions, expected to recruit a large number of native people, will provide education and training to help the worker move up the promotional ladder.

At the same time, the Department expects the new people to be better able to serve the clientele.

Problems of health care in Alaska emerged time and time again in hearings across the state, according to State Director of Comprehensive Planning Larry Sullivan. For welfare clients, the state pays emergency medical bills. For the affluent, there are means.

"However, the lower middle class family or the underemployed worker has trouble in a medical emergency. Many comparatively minor things necessitate major expenditures," according to Sullivan.

Transportation to reach medical care in Alaska is a major item. From the Aleutian chain, for example, a trip to the doctor costs \$600—in plane fare.

Alaska Native Health Service picks up the tab for native people. However, a non-native who lives in the islands can be wiped out financially by a broken leg.

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PRESIDENT NIXON GREETED PUEBLO INDIAN ARTIST—Michael Naranjo, 27, got his biggest boost recently when he called at the White House and gave a 35-pound sculpture to President Nixon. Artist Naranjo works entirely from his memories of Pueblo life as he is both blind and without the use of one hand, the victim of a grenade explosion in Vietnam four years ago. Determined to overcome his handicaps, the artist demands that his sculpture be

judged on merit, not as the creations of a blind sculptor. The President, immensely touched by the courage and outlook of the Vietnam veteran, got down on his hands and knees with Naranjo so the artist could feel the Presidential seal in the White House Executive Office rug. The statue he made for the President was of the eagle dance he remembers as a child at Santa Clara Pueblo.

—Official photograph—THE WHITE HOUSE

### Cannikin Shot Boomed Nov. 6

At high noon (or 62 milliseconds later for those who must be exact) on Saturday November 6, the United States detonated its most powerful underground nuclear explosion. There were no indications that the five megaton blast caused an earthquake, tidal wave, or radiation in the air, according to AEC monitors.

A preliminary report on the effect of the blast on the tiny Aleutian Island of Amchitka will be forthcoming soon, according to Henry Vermillion, an AEC public affairs officer. Crews patrolled the island's beaches on Sunday looking for evidence of harmful effects on fish and wildlife, he reported, but post detonation studies will continue for at least one year. One sea otter was injured and several birds killed by blast-caused rock-slides on the island. A small freshwater lake apparently drained through a ground fissure.

As the Cannikin test exploded a mile underground at the southeast end of Amchitka Island the ground on the island rolled. At ground zero, the blast threw the surface of the island 25 feet into the air for a split second.

The ground at the control

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### Committee May Meet Next Week—

#### Land Claims Work Deemed Important Before December 1

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.  
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 9)—The joint Conference Committee comprised of members of both the House and Senate is first scheduled to meet during the week of November 15 to resolve differences between separate legislation approved by both bodies to settle the Alaska Native Land Claims.

Reliable sources indicate that

Rep. Wayne Aspinall, Chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee and the chief House member of the conference committee favors a meeting at that time.

William Van Ness, majority counsel to the Senate Interior Committee has stated that it wouldn't be humanly possible for a bill to receive presidential

signature during this session of Congress if the conference committee does not conclude business by December 1.

The House members of the conference committee were appointed this week. Congressman Nick Begich became the first freshman congressman ever

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### Presbyterians Grant ASNA \$85,000

A grant of \$85,000 has been made to the Arctic Slope Native Association for its self development programs by the United Presbyterian Church U.S.A., it was announced in Seattle last week by the Reverend Richard Nishioka.

Mr. Nishioka, pastor of the Japanese Presbyterian Church here and chairman of the United Presbyterian Synod of Washington Alaska Self-Development Validating Committee, explained that the grant was made from more than \$2 million given by Presbyterians across America for

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### Bush Preschoolers and Toys-- Cornflakes, Rice, Pebbles Help Native Tots Learn

What can a three year old learn from a little metal film can filled with cornflakes? He can learn what it sounds like when you shake the can. He can learn that a little can full of cornflakes sounds different than a can filled with rice, or peas, or pebbles. He can learn that another container of cornflakes sounds much like the first—even if he doesn't look inside.

Thus, even a simple film can is a valuable tool for the preschooler.

Toys to learn by are at the center of a new program for preschool children starting in 27 rural villages this month as the Children's Cache.

Developed and operated by the Division of State Operated Schools, Children's Cache utilizes a set of specially developed toys and a corps of new child development aides—young people hired by their village school boards to operate pre school education in their own village.

With the aid of a Title I federal grant, Children's Cache will go to villages which don't have Head Start programs. Of the 27 chosen, 23 had applications in for Head Start programs, explained director Baxter Wood. All are enthusiastic about the pre school program.

"We are providing an envelope to help children learn speci-

fic skills," Wood explained as he began a training program for the second group of eight child development aides last week in Fairbanks.

"Children's Cache will aim to develop in three to five year old youngsters a sense of identity and self worth."

It may operate in a classroom setting, he explained or in a home, public building, or national armory. In any situation, Aides will work both with children and their parents. Many options are open and village school boards will choose which form the program will take in their village.

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