

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Editorial— Natives Breach Edge of National Conscience

The confirmation hearing of Gov. Walter J. Hickel of Alaska as an Interior Secretary-designate has shown the nation something else besides the immediate task of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee in Washington. It has revealed that the native effort in trying to get the land claims situation resolved has breached the edges of national conscience.

Gov. Hickel, whether he knew it or not, has helped the native people to pose the land question before the nation under searching questions of Sen. Henry M. Jackson and his Senate Interior Committee.

Gov. Hickel's brash statements that he could "undo" what Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall has done and that the land freeze in Alaska was a "negative thing" have proved to be blessings in disguise for the native people and the land situation. If Mr. Hickel had not made those statements, the native land claims matter would, perhaps, have been barely skimmed over at the confirmation hearings. Instead, the committee delved deeply into the land question and in the process helped to reveal the national viewpoint on the problem and that it was being seriously considered by the nation's legislative body.

The manner in which the hearing was conducted might have brought home to Walter Hickel the true weight of the land question from the national standpoint at least. Hickel, considering everything, might have received one of the most intense five-day school of hard knocks relative to problems his high office will have to deal with during his tenure of office. Under this grueling circumstance, Mr. Hickel's pledge to keep the land freeze on in Alaska until the 91st Congress has acted on the problem looks to be his realization of the gravity of the claims question. The hearing might have given him a new vista through which to scan the problem with more profound viewpoints quite different from those he held as Governor of Alaska.

In any case, the Interior Committee's questioning of Gov. Hickel has helped the nation to look a little more closely into the complexities of the land claims question in Alaska and those of the duties of the Interior Department. The hearing also showed us a development that the native effort toward land solution—the urgency of that solution—has breached the edges of national conscience. A strong indication of this was Sen. Jackson's determination that he would work for land legislation during the current session of Congress.

MILLER HIRES INFO OFFICER

JUNEAU—The appointment of Elaine Mitchell to the position of Director of Information in the Office of the Governor was announced by Acting Gov. Keith H. Miller.

Mrs. Mitchell is a Juneau newswoman. She was on the staff of the Alaska Empire for two years and more recently had been Juneau correspond-

ent for the Anchorage Times and free-lance writer.

Mrs. Mitchell and her husband David have been Juneau residents since June, 1965. The Mitchells have three children; Mike, 13; Melanie, 10, and Kelly, 5.

Mrs. Mitchell begins work in the \$13,500 a year post January 21.

Tundra Times



Owned, controlled and edited by Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company, a corporation of Alaska natives. Published at Fairbanks, Alaska, weekly, on Friday.

Address all mail to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Telephone 452-2244.

Entered at the Post Office at Fairbanks, Alaska, as second class matter under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. Board of Directors Executive Committee: Howard Rock, president; Thomas Richards, vice president; Mrs. Ralph Perdue, secretary; Jimmy Bedford, comptroller; Mary Jane Fate, assistant secretary. HOWARD ROCK, editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Regular Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$ 8.00	6 Months \$ 4.50
Air Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$19.00	6 Months \$10.00

WALES VILLAGE ENJOYS CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

By ROY OKPEALUK
Wales, Alaska

Lots of activities going on at Wales in December. School programs under the direction of present teachers (Christensens) were really nice. That is, the Christmas programs.

There were indoor games played also. Men in one evening and women in another. Outdoor sports were played also. There were foot races for school children. And also men 100 yard free for all won by Norman Ongtowsruk, second place Patrick Ongtowsruk, and third, Isaac Oxer-eak.

And women's 100 yard was won by Maggie Komanaseak, second Edna Angnaboogak, and

third, Faye Ongtowsruk.

And on shooting match, there was only one prize. And the scorekeeper Jonah Tokienna has tried a fast one on the winner, Roy Okpealuk, by giving the prize to another person.

Thanks to Charles Christensen who checked the target and found the actual winner.

There were two sno-go races. First race was won by Clarence Ongtowsruk, second Roland Angnaboogak, and third, Glenn Sereadlook. Lilane Christensen came fourth and fifth Pete Sereadlook.

Second snow machine race: first was Alfred Sereadlook and second, Toby Anungazuk, third prize went to Charles Christensen.

And women's, there were only two entries. First prize went to Sarah Christensen and second to Martha Anungazuk.

Men's ice skating: first was Pete Sereadlook, second Norman Ongtowsruk, and third to Pat Ongtowsruk. And ladies, first Lillian Tunguessuk, and second Maggie Komanaseak, and third Lee Ann Christensen.

Sen. Gravel Appoints Thomas Smythe

U.S. Senator Mike Gravel has announced the appointment to his staff of Thomas J. Smythe, noted Alaskan economist, professional planner, and consultant.

Smythe will work closely with cities, boroughs, school districts, and other units of local government in Alaska, assisting them with existing projects, and helping them in expanding participation in programs involving the federal government.

In announcing the new appointment, Senator Gravel said, "Smythe will help to strengthen the technical and financial support Alaska's local government units receive from the federal government. In this way local government can increase its role in providing public service."

Smythe, a graduate of the University of Arizona where he earned both a B.S. and an M.S. in economics, has worked both in Europe and the United States as a professional planner.

Minto, Alaska 99758
January 20, 1969

Dear Mr. Rock:

I'm writing concerning the change in the name of our village. I am in favor of keeping the same name. I don't see why they have to have all this fuss over names for our village when it already has a name.

In the article you printed, you only have one man's opinion. If the name 'Chichalyu' is the new name for the village, the Caribou Tail might very well not like it and then do something about it.

I do not want it to be named after only one tribe when there is a mixture of tribes living here.

Sincerely yours,
Caribou Tail

Kaltag, Alaska
Jan. 20, 1969

Dear Editor:

On Dec. 30 the new village council members elected were: George Madros, president; Leonard Silas, vice president; Margaret Rose Semaken, secretary; Richard Nicholas, treasurer; Albert Nicholi, council member.

They are to serve a term of one year.

Yours truly,
M. Rose Semaken

WANTED

Eskimo Drum, regulation size with stick; new or in good condition. Call 452-2977, after 6 p.m.

WANTED: Chilkat Blankets; totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; potlatch bowls; fish hooks; spoons and all N.W. items 50 years of age or older. Send photo or sketch and prices to: Albert T. Miller, 2235 West Live Oak Dr. Los Angeles, California 90028.

Letters to the Editor

Wolf Creek JCCC
Glide, Oregon 97443
Jan. 17, 1969

To: Howard Rock, Editor
Tundra Times
Box 1287, Fairbanks, 99701

To the Alaska Native Assn:

I take the Tundra Times and look forward eagerly to reading each issue as they arrive. Being an Athabaskan from Rampart, Alaska, I agree intensely with what you people are doing for your people and for mine.

I do disagree, though, with one editorial which appeared in your paper which was entitled, "The Sad Exodus of Village Children to School," (Nov. 8, 1968). I do agree that we should not grasp babies in arms from clutching mothers at ages of 6, 7, & 8, even a little older.

Having taught at Chemawa, Oregon for 11 years before I left for a promotion and having had to leave home to enter high school at Eklutna, and after these years of experiences and opportunities which were not forthcoming otherwise, I wish to disagree with this particular editorial on these grounds.

Taking little children from their mothers' arms has happened in isolated cases in the distant past, but I am very much misinformed if this is happening now. The students we have been getting at Chemawa were young men and young women—teenagers who are reaching an age when it is time to cut the umbilical cord, if not the apron strings.

We know that in the not too distant past, our people, the Indians of Alaska and the Eskimos, very strongly distrusted one another. Through our high schools, such as they were, first Eklutna then Wrangell, Mt. Edgecumbe and the schools in the lower 48, they have learned to get along, to understand, and in some cases to love one another. This would not have come about, if we kept all our young adults home and tried to educate them in their isolation from the world.

Books and words of mouth do not, by themselves, bring education. We must SEE, HEAR, and EXPERIENCE new things. SIGHTS and SOUNDS are experienced by those who leave their mothers' bosoms and go forth and explore.

Though, I agree that there is room for improvement in our curriculum, our presentation and our staff at the Indian Schools in the lower 48, I strongly agree with the students who have been down here when they say, "My gosh! I would never have heard of this nor believed it possible, if I had not come down." Recently, Robert Converse on leave from Military training said, "Mr. Evans, my brother was smarter than I was in school. He went to school in Alaska and he doesn't know anything." They just do not have the opportunities for field trips that we have at Chemawa.

Although, I am not now a member of the staff at Chemawa, or any of the other schools where your children are sent, I very strongly believe that we, the people of Alaska, should try to keep these schools going for the better, easier, cheaper and more complete education of our children.

While doing this, though, since they are your schools for your children, you should be able to evaluate, recommend and plan the curriculum, activities and staff. I would like to help all I can.

Sincerely yours,
Charles J. Evans

Homer, Alaska
January 15, 1969

Dear Sir:

The excitement of the snowmobile race is down and I'd like to take this opportunity to ask if you'd help the Homer Volunteer Fire Department Auxilliary on their project.

We are collecting coupons (Betty Crocker) to purchase a fire truck for the Fire Department. We only need 5 million coupons values. Betty Crocker of General Mills has a special merchandise plan for groups to obtain more costly items by saving the coupons and getting a

credit of 1/2 cent per coupon value.

We are going to need all the help we can get. Would you find space in your paper to ask for help from your subscribers and readers? These coupons can be sent to the Homer Volunteer Fire Department Auxilliary; Box 433, Homer, Alaska 99603.

Many thanks from the Auxilliary and the Fire Dept.

Sincerely yours,
Betty Wilkins

(Auxilliary president
and coupon chairman)