

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

Tundra Times



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Other Voices—

● Task Force Bills Offer A Practical Solution

The future development of Alaska and an equitable settlement of the native land claims issue are intrinsically linked. Until the protests are resolved, the development of vast amounts of land will be hindered. Further, until a successful attack on native poverty is made, whatever future prosperity the state may see will be blemished.

The Task Force bills, Senate Bill 2906 and the identical House of Representatives bill 15049, offer the advantage, to all groups concerned, of a quick settlement and promise to aid in the social and economic development of Alaska's native population.

The bills propose, in essence, to grant 40 million acres of federal land to native corporations in the state, a 10 per cent royalty on all revenues from the outer continental shelf with an immediate advance of \$20 million, and surface rights for 100 years to lands now occupied and used by native groups. A companion state bill, to be introduced, would grant a 5 per cent royalty on future revenues from state land acquired after enactment of the bill.

The solution offered by the Task Force bills would avoid court action, which could drag into the 21st century. Such an occurrence would not only be unfair to Alaska's present native population but would greatly hamper development on the protested lands. If we are to judge from past court decisions, it is likely that natives would receive a paltry amount as an end result.

Putting land in the hands of natives, on the other hand, would aid the development of the state. Reportedly, the oil companies interested in Alaska would be just as happy to deal with native corporations as with anyone else. The Task Force bills put the land in native control, not in the control of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Those who argue the state and federal governments owe nothing to the natives speak from the 19th Century and haven't learned the lessons of the 20th Century. One of the most urgent problems facing the entire nation today is that of minority groups which have been unequitably dealt with in the past and are now unable to take their place as productive members of the community. Society eventually must face up to its shabby dealings with non-white groups. Alaska's natives must not be put in the ranks of the permanently disinherited and impoverished.

Although there is not complete agreement, the Task Force bills are acceptable to many native groups. Most feel that land ownership is important and that they must have control of their own property. Rather than wait years for the possibility that a court decision would grant them more benefits than the proposed bills, they are willing to accept this compromise.

It is vital to Alaska that this issue be settled as promptly as possible. We urge that the Task Force bills, or some modification thereof, be enacted by Congress and the State Legislature this year.

-FAIRBANKS DAILY NEWS - MINER

Crash Building Gives Schooling

Thirty-five children in two river villages in western Alaska are completing their first months of schooling—training that for many of them is the first formal education they've ever received—all a result of a crash building program instituted and totally funded by the state some months ago.

The program involves 19 children at Russian Mission, on the Kuskokwim River, and another 16 youths at Pitkas Point, on the lower Yukon River.

Students in both villages now are studying in school buildings entirely built by local labor, using local materials where possible, and entirely with state funds. Neither school existed a year ago.

The lack of school facilities in the two communities was brought to the attention of Gov. Walter J. Hickel last summer. At the time, Russian Mission youngsters had to travel to Aniak, 10 miles away, for classes, which meant in most cases that youngsters had to move to the other village for the entire school term.

The same situation existed for pupils from Pitkas Point; they were required to attend class 15 miles away at St. Mary's.

In both villages many children were unable to go to school because their parents were unable to make the move to the other community.

Hickel directed the rural development agency in the Governor's Office, the Department of Education, and the Division of Buildings in the Department of Public Works to take steps necessary to build schools, and have supplies and teachers in the two villages ready for business before this past fall term began.

The governor's timetable and directive were met.

At Russian Mission, 11 local men went to work, using timber from a sawmill operated by Gary Nelson at Aniak. Nelson doubled as construction foreman.

Working under Nelson's leadership, the crew finished their work, and the school opened for business on Oct. 1. Construction had started on July 3.

Timber for the Pitkas Point school was purchased in Fairbanks, and work got under way on Aug. 14.

The doors opened on Oct. 9. A crew of 24 men built the structure under the supervision of Don Shepherd, from the State Department of Labor.

Funding for both schools came totally from the state, with \$11,066 from the Department of Education, matched with a \$6,000 Rural Development Agency grant, covering costs at Russian Mission.

Costs at Pitkas Point were met with a \$13,772 expenditure from the Education Department, and an \$8,320 RDA grant. Total cost for both schools was \$39,158.

The Department of Education provided supplies, and hired teachers for both schools.

Edison Hooley, with eight

Ticachuk Offers Advice To Polar Expedition

(Editor's Note: Last week, Tundra Times printed the first part of Ticachuk's (Emily I. Brown) superlative letter of advice to the members of the British Trans-Arctic Expedition members who are now underway toward Spitzbergen, their destination, over the Polar Icecap. The following is the second and concluding part of the letter.)

Part two

Another delicacy is a roasted ptarmigan. Should you be traveling near the shore or on the land, you might have a chance to either shoot or snare some ptarmigans. There is a method of setting the snares; you need ptarmigan willows, simple twine snares with noose loops at the end of the snares before you set them; now make a fence using the willow twigs by standing them upright all in a row on a snow bank; leave an opening about six inches wide at every foot of fencing; set your snares (dampened twine) so that the loop will hold its shape after it freezes.

PTARMIGAN MIGRATION

The ptarmigan migrate during the months of April and May. If their route is over the expanse of sea, they are bound for the shore and the first glimpse of willows they see will entice them to make a landing. If this is the case, you will catch enough food for a roast bird supper.

The Eskimos use this method of roasting: use drift wood or dry willows for fuel; expose the surface of the ground and build a fire over it to thaw the frozen ground; remove coals of fire from the center of the campfire; hollow the earth under the thawed place and place the ptarmigan there; now rekindle the coals of fire over it and lay some larger pieces of wood; the ptarmigan should be done within 1/2 to 3/4 of an hour.

When the roasted bird is done, roll it over on the edge of the fire and cool it until you can handle it with your gloved hands. Now puncture the charred feathers and at this moment drink the broth. Next, split the outer covering and proceed to eat a hot fresh ptarmigan seasoned with its own cooked small intestines.

GREEN SALAD

The contents of viscera will furnish you with green salad and Vitamin "C". You

years rural teaching experience, was assigned to Russian Mission.

Miss Geraldine Hurley, with three years experience, went to Pitkas Point.

Hickel commented, "We congratulate the people of Russian Mission and Pitkas Point for lending their important support and enthusiasm to these projects."

"It is now apparent that the state has come up with a plan wherein we can provide much needed educational facilities in our rural areas—in many cases through utilizing our own resources and abilities."

"There is no reason for these things to take years to accomplish."

may add salt and pepper or even butter. It is a favorite food of the hunters of the Arctic people. The ptarmigan thrives on the buds of the famous willow. Be sure you know how to identify these willows. These have orange-colored leaves and its bark is a burgundy color. These same buds will furnish survival food to those who may become lost in the wilderness.

On the plateau country and mountainous regions, there are many frozen cranberries and blackberries to provide you with fruit. In the same area you will find ptarmigans in search of berries.

DAILY VITAMINS

A handful of cranberries is enough to supply you with a daily requirement of vitamins. In the same places you will find other small animals such as ground squirrels which are a prime source of food. Fowl lay their eggs during the month of June. Little minnows are found in the small lakes and ponds located near the river or sea-shores. We use small gauge dips to catch them. The natives eat them raw, this is also a survival food.

DON'T FORGET THE MICE

In the same locations, near the riverbanks around the willows on the tundra, are mice communities. Field mice in the wilderness supply themselves with edible roots called masu, Eskimo grass root nuts. Stamp gently with your feet in search of the cellars. If your foot sinks gently over a soft covering of moss, this is the cellar. Open it and you'll find a wealth of food. Do not take all of the contents. Leave some for the field mouse. If you have bread or leftover food, place it in a cellar to replace what you've taken.

Now, my final advice, Mr. Herbert, is when it is 50 to 70 degrees below zero, do not run with your mouth open, breathe through your nose. Do not eat snow, melt and boil first before drinking it. Do not drink from a puddle as there are small fire worms which the Eskimos are familiar with and usually known to the hunter as taboo. This is not superstition, it is true!

Good Luck and "Buraghin" (goodbye).

Sincerely yours,
Ticachuk (Emily I. Brown)
Eskimo Culture Consultant
University of Alaska

Humane Society's Highest Award

By JILL SHEPHERD

Monday night Roger Burggraf of College was presented the American Humane Society's highest honor—the Stillman Award. Burggraf is the first Alaskan recipient of this award.

Mrs. Jim Thompson, president of the Fairbanks Humane Society, cited Burggraf for outstanding valor in the rescue of 50 sled dogs during the August, 1967 Fairbanks flood.

The award was accepted by Burggraf, a local banker.

(Continued on page 3)