

Nick Begich Stresses Need for Better Education in Rural Areas

State Senator Nick Begich, D-Anchorage, made a hard campaign swing through Fairbanks last week and gave talks all the way from grade school children to the bar association. He made over 40 appearances in the city and University of Alaska.

"It's always a thrill to talk to the kids on government," he said.

Sen. Begich is bidding for nomination in August primaries against fellow Democrats, Don Wright, president of Cook Inlet Native Association, and John Rader, former state attorney general.

Wright and Rader are also from Anchorage. The winner of the three-way contest will campaign for the seat in the U.S. House of Representatives now occupied by Congressman Howard W. Pollock, R-Anchorage.

In his statement to the Tundra Times, Nick Begich stressed the need for better education in the rural areas.

"The key to open the door for success and improvement of rural villages of Alaska will only come through improved educational opportunities," Begich stated.

"The state has to make a greater financial commitment for adult basic education, pre-school education and vocational and technical training along with an improved curriculum for elementary and secondary education and its about time they did something to further the development of the regional high school plan.

"Education can help solve the economic problems facing rural Alaska."

Outside of visiting almost

all the schools and the university in around Fairbanks, Begich spoke to the following organizations:

Two Kiwanis groups, Rotary, Junior Chamber of Commerce banquet, Bar Association, Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center, Adult Education Center, Arctic Association for Retarded Children, Alaska Association for Young Children and Pioneers Home.

He also met with many labor representatives and scheduled a meeting with Tanana Grange.

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Flood Control Committee to Meet in D.C.

Fairbanks Flood Control Committee will testify on the proposed Tanana River Basin Flood Control Project at hearings before the House Flood Control Committee at 2:00 p.m. next week on May 14.

Favorable reports on this project are now being received by Congressman Howard W. Pollock.

Scheduled to testify are seven Fairbanks committee members: Ralph Bailey, chairman; Harold Gillam, Henry "Red" Boucher, Harry Porter, Ed Merdes, Con Frank and Ralph Rivers.

Ralph Bailey is the president of the Alaska National Bank of Fairbanks; Harold Gillam, North Star Borough chairman; Red Boucher, mayor of Fairbanks; Harry Porter, Fairbanks councilman; Ed Merdes, attorney; and Ralph Rivers, former Congressman for Alaska.

Congressman Pollock is handling arrangements for the delegation to testify.

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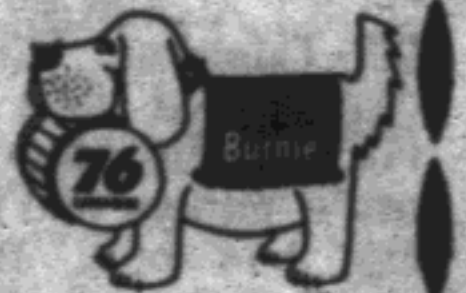
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