

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

Tundra Times

Udall Suggests Share Bonuses

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continental shelf.

The Secretary said that his department will call for nomination of the Gulf of Alaska "shelf" tracts for leasing in 18 months to two years.

He thought that he could sell Congress on the idea that the native people could share in the revenue royalties from the leases. He said this money received by the native people would be native run and managed.

Udall said he thought of the idea during his plane ride to Anchorage and that, of course, he has not consulted the Bureau of the Budget and the White House.

He thought, however, that from the standpoint of Congress, the idea might prove to be appealing.

The Secretary's announcement took the native leaders by surprise, as well as everyone else, and many of them said they were "jolted" and "flabbergasted" by Udall's sudden disclosure.

The leaders, however, are thinking of the idea with a cautious optimism and many of them, including legislators, think that Udall might have made a good beginning to solve the land question.

Another important development that took place at the meeting with the Secretary was that an atmosphere has been created to work on the land claims problem in a three-way effort; that the native leaders, the state, and the Interior Department would work together in drawing up a new bill.

"There should be a three-

way compromise, the native people, the State, and the Interior Department. There is a good climate in which to work," Udall said.

Prior to the meeting with the Secretary, the native land claims task force, appointed by Gov. Walter J. Hickel, had been meeting with State Attorney General Edgar Boyko and there a cautious atmosphere of cooperation on the land claims problem was established.

This was due, in most part, to the Attorney General's liberalized attitude towards the land problem.

The task force went to the extent of creating a drafting committee to work on a bill in cooperation with the State. Rep. Willie Hensley was elected chairman of the committee and the following persons were appointed to serve on the drafting committee:

Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives; Harvey Samuelson, Dillingham; Harry Franz, Kenai; Byron Mallott, first vice president of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, Yakutat; John Borbridge, Native Affairs Officer, PHS, Anchorage and Juneau;

Richard Frank, president of Fairbanks Native Association, Minto and Fairbanks; Hugh Nicholls, first vice president of Arctic Slope Native Association, Barrow; and Don Wright, president of Cook Inlet Native Association, Anchorage.

THREE-WAY EFFORT

Now that the three-way

working agreement on the land claims problem has been established, there is no reason why this arrangement should meet with opposition.

Secretary Udall made a strong bid for this eventuality when he said, "You should make a real, vigorous effort to compromise..."

Chief Andrew Isaac of Tanacross, who held the more than 200 in the audience spellbound with his speech, said, "I don't understand — why don't we get along? We got to be go together..."

The Secretary then said that "If the State, the native people, and the Interior Department work together, I think we could get a bill. If we don't, we could be caught in a cross-fire of an argument in Congress."

Udall then made a significant statement that there would be a person high in the echelon in his department who would work along with the native people and the State in working out a compromise bill.

And about his suggested idea of giving a share of the royalty income of the federal government from lease sales on the continental shelf, which the native people could use in forming viable communities, he said:

"My own people might think I'm crazy. I would like to solve this problem while I'm Secretary—and this might last for the next 14 months. I want to give you a permanent stake in your state."

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Editorial—

The Original Spirit Of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is usually thought of as a time when people look back and count their blessings. But the first Thanksgiving celebrations were by people who had few obvious blessings.

Several of the Pilgrims died in the first winter in Massachusetts, and the first harvest at the colony was poor. Virginia's first Thanksgiving celebration was declared to celebrate the arrival of colonists at a town-site; the community failed within the next three years.

The first Thanksgivings were not for achievements, but for the promises of the future. Many of the colonists had faced discrimination in England because of their religion; they had hopes of building a new life in a new land.

Today the Alaska Native people have hopes of building a new life in an old land. As at the first Thanksgivings, much of that new life is still promise. But, in many fields, there are signs of change.

After 100 years, some action is being taken on the land claims issue. Much remains to be done to achieve an acceptable solution, but the claims proposals have moved to the point where the Native people can take actions to promote their interests.

The recent NORTH Commission meeting in Washington offers promise. In addition to the technical matters of creating transportation to the Arctic, the subject of training Alaskans to fill the new jobs was discussed.

It is this combination of creating jobs and training Native people to fill them that offers a promise of a new life. New industries will not help if the workers are imported from the Lower 48; job training is useless unless there are jobs available. The consideration of both subjects at the same meeting offers hope for the future.

Too many of the Native college students are unable to graduate. Yet there are the pathfinders—young people like Willie Hensley and John Sackett—who have shown the way, and there are many studies being made to help others follow.

The Vocational Rehabilitation planning conference in Anchorage is another hope for the future. This rehabilitation program will help Native people overcome problems to obtaining jobs—not only physical disability problems, but cultural and educational problems.

The path of the future will not be easy. There will be setbacks, such as the failure of the Bethel model cities application.

But the Alaska Native people are learning to help

ROGERS VISITS NORTHWESTERN VILLAGES . . .

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Sunday and he had to repeat the demonstration several times before he could get inside the school where refreshments were waiting.

He met with Wainwright village council members and told them about his mission as a special assistant to the commissioner of Indian affairs.

"I want to know how we can help you," he told them. "Tell me what you need and I will try to tell your story to the men in Washington."

Besides listening, Rogers asked a good many questions and had some comments for the village people. He was very anxious to know how they felt about land claims, land ownership, and their schools.

"Get yourselves a good lawyer, and don't let anyone push you around," he said in discussing the land claims. Rogers proudly told them that he too was part native and had shared in the \$385 which

was his father's part of the Cherokee claim.

He was told that the village school at Wainwright has 90 students and the children have to be taught in split sessions because there just isn't enough space available in the school.

"We'll get you a bigger school," Rogers promised them, "but you'll have to be patient, the war in Vietnam is costing a lot of money."

From Wainwright the party flew over the monument erected to Will Rogers and Wiley Post who crashed there 32 years ago. At Barrow a plane was waiting to take the group to the monument itself but it was getting late and Mr. Rogers said he would rather stay in Barrow. (He saw the monument in 1955 while making a movie on the life of Will Rogers).

In Barrow he visited the school, met the teachers and attended a reception of the local native leaders, held in

their own future, through their right to vote. Last year, they elected seven of their own people, and several strong allies, to the Alaska Legislature. This growing political awareness is one of the strongest hopes for the future of the Native people.

Many of the most promising programs are still in the beginning, conference stage. Much remains to be done before the full benefits reach the Native people. But the programs are beginning—and the Native people are learning how to influence them.

It was such hope for the future—and for the ability to influence it—that was the original spirit of Thanksgiving.

the new BIA school. Among those present was Claire Okpeaha, the last man to see Will Rogers and Wiley Post alive.

Okpeaha carried on a brief conversation with Will Rogers, Jr., through an interpreter, April Akpik. During the reception the guest again got out his rope and gave a demonstration of twirling.

Rogers explained that roping is the only circus skill that originated in the New World. Most of the tricks now seen in circuses, he added, were invented by his father.

After the reception, Rogers went to another reception at the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory where he met scientists from various universities studying the peoples of the north.

Rogers had planned to visit Anaktuvuk Pass on the way to Fairbanks but the weather was not cooperative.

In Fairbanks Monday afternoon he met with BIA officials and then visited the University of Alaska where he watched the ivory carvers at work in the arts and crafts center. He also spent nearly an hour meeting with native students.

This was followed by a talk with the experienced teachers who were meeting in another building. His evening was spent with a press conference, a reception by Fairbanks Native Association and coffee at the home of President and Mrs. William R. Wood.

He caught the late plane to Anchorage where he got a welcome sleep before his next conferences began Tuesday morning. After Anchorage he hopes to visit Bethel before returning to Washington.