

Indians Forcefully Criticize Sec. Hickel

CHICAGO—The American Indians-United and the National Indian Youth Council in a joint statement this week demanded that the Nixon administration investigate Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel's recent statements regarding Indian reservation status at the Western Governor's Conference held in both Seattle, Wash. and Portland Oregon.

Jess Sixkiller is the executive director of the American Indians-United with headquarters in Chicago.

"Secretary Hickel's statements," the statement declared, "at the Western Governor's Conference in Seattle, Washington on July 30 imply a renewed Interior Department interest in the termination of Indian reservations."

"Hickel reportedly said, 'Indians will always have the crutch of being able to go back to the reservation. Indians have often come off the reservation, moved into the eastern cities and sometimes found they could not make it and returned to the reservation. They must cut the cord sooner or later and become involved in American society.'"

"These remarks," the statement continued, "and where they were presented seems to be in our opposition to Point Two of the Nixon address to Indians, 'Termination of tribal recognitions will not be a policy objective and in no case be imposed without Indian consent,' and Point Five, 'I will oppose any effort to transfer jurisdiction over reservations without Indian consent.'"

The statement of the AIU and NIYC also took to task Secretary Hickel's failure to appoint so far a new Commissioner of Indian Affairs which was vacated by resignation of Commissioner Robert L. Bennett.

Hickel was reportedly to have stated that he had come up with an Indian "who can do the job as Commissioner and get confirmed by the Senate."

"His methods of determining the next Bureau of Indian Affairs commissioner is apparently in opposition to Point Four of the Nixon address: 'The right of self determination if the Indian people will be respected and their participation in planning

their own destiny will be encouraged."

Hickel reportedly said in Portland, Ore. on July 31:

"Political considerations were involved in selecting a new Commissioner."

"The question is," the statement said, "whose political considerations was he referring to—to his own political future or the self determining destiny of Indian people?"

"We American Indians-United and the National Indian Youth Council demand participation in the selection of the next Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We further demand that the Nixon administration conduct an investigation of Mr. Hickel's statements at the Western Governor's Conference and in Portland to determine whether they were in the best interest of the Indian Americans and previously stated administration policy."

The Indian groups pointed out that recently BIA funding of over \$200 million was held up due to the Indians becoming a political pawn.

"Today," the groups said, "we are still without a commissioner though a parade of qualified Indians have been interviewed. We demand that recognized Indian organizations who are attuned to the people be the ones to recommend three qualified Indians from which one may be selected for the commissioner."

The American Indians-United is a national affiliation of off-reservation Indian organizations.

Kemuk—Upward Bound Kids Stage Trading Play

Students of the University of Alaska Upward Bound program presented a pageant for the public yesterday at the campus in Schaible Auditorium.

The pageant entitled "Kemuk" depicted the historic Eskimo and Indian trading festival between the Indians of Nulato and the Eskimos of Unalakleet.

Admission was free. Lee Salisbury, head of the Department of Speech, Radio, and Drama, directed the pageant

Eskimo VISTA Associates Instruct VISTA Volunteers Eskimo Dialect

Something new in communications between the VISTA volunteers and the native people in the lower Kuskokwim and Dillingham areas are being tried at the University of Alaska.

Eskimo VISTA Associates along with Levi Lott of Tuluksak and Irene Reed of the UA linguistic department are teaching VISTA Volunteers the Yupik Eskimo dialect of the Bethel and Dillingham areas.

The VISTA Volunteers, 25 of them, are now training for assignments in the villages in the areas mentioned. The language training program is under the direction of Irene Reed.

Miss Reed has five informants. Four of them are young Eskimo women from the lower Kuskokwim area and all of them are VISTA Associates.

They are: Marie Nick, Nunapitchuk; Ina Keene Morgan, Kasigluk; Sadie David, Kongiganak; and Edith Kernak, Tuntutuliak. Levi Lott, Kasigluk, UA student, is the fifth informant.

"The VISTAS are having fun learning Eskimo but the language is a real tongue twister for whites," said Levi Lott. "When they're through, I hope there will be a better communication between them and the villagers."

The language program has been in progress for almost three weeks.

"Some of the kids are doing real well in the program. At least they'll have a better understanding of the cultural background in the villages where they will be



ESKIMO LANGUAGE TEACHERS—This group of young Eskimos from lower Kuskokwim area are teaching the Yupik dialect of the Eskimo language to 25 VISTA Volunteers at the training sessions at the University of Alaska. From left to right: Edith Kernak, Tuntutuliak; Levi Lott, Tuluksak; Sadie David, Kongiganak; Ina Keene Morgan, Kasigluk; and Marie Nick, Nunapitchuk. The four girls are scheduled to go to University of Oregon to teach Eskimo at the VISTA training-center of western regions.

serving," said Lott.

Edith Kernak and Marie Nick know how to read Eskimo "in the old way." They, however, along with others have been learning to read their language in the linguistic style as taught by Miss Reed.

"We have found that it's easier to read than the old way," remarked Marie Nick.

Joli Morgan, who is now working for University of Oregon that is responsible for training VISTA Volunteers, said that John Shuler

as the VISTA director for Alaska, first thought of the idea about a year ago.

"If this is successful, we would like to work the same program in northern Eskimo dialect and Athabascan in the interior Alaska," said Morgan.

Levi Lott brought the group from the university for a brief interview in the Tundra Times office. At the end of the interview, he said:

"Tuai." That means: "That's all," in Yupik dialect.

Borough, UA Seek Teacher Students

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, in cooperation with the University of Alaska, is presently recruiting individuals who have had at least three (3) years of college and wish to make teaching in Alaska their career.

Those accepted will be spending the school year 1969-70 attending classes at the University of Alaska and practice teaching in the public schools of Fair-

banks.

Candidates will receive a Bachelor's degree in either elementary or secondary education. In addition to receiving a stipend, candidates will be paid for books, lab fees, and tuition.

Interested persons should apply through the Alaska State Manpower Center, 6th and Barnette Streets immediately as the deadline is August 15.

MILLER'S TESTIMONY SNARLS

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said, the majority could be selected by the natives themselves.

The AFN had asked that the native people be immediately empowered to select a majority of the directors, and Hickel, when he was Alaska's governor, and the current state legislature had concurred.

It was noted, however, that Gov. Miller did support the grant to the natives of \$500 million, payable as follows:

—\$100 million the first year and \$50 million a year for the next succeeding eight years with interest.

This position is in agreement with the native position, as is Gov. Miller's support of distribution of the money to state and regional native business corporations.

He also supported the AFN's request not to repeal the Native Allotment Act.

The attorneys believe that Gov. Miller's testimony will substantially impair the chance of obtaining a grant of more land than the proposed by the Governor.

The lawyers believe that if Miller had supported what Hickel had supported when he was governor that the native land claims could still result in a fair land settlement.

The attorneys further pointed out to the fact that Miller's position resulted in a grant of only 3 per cent of the entire land encompassed by the State while while the natives had claimed

virtually all of the State and the Federal Field Committee had found that the natives could prove use and occupation of almost all of the state.

This change of position by the state administration as exhibited by Gov. Miller's testimony is being viewed by the native leaders, according to the attorneys, as a breach of faith with the commitment made by the then Gov. Hickel to the native people at a time when the State and the natives were to be united in obtaining a fair and just settlement of the land claims of Alaska's native people.

The natives of Alaska are asking for 40 million acres out of the state's 375 million acres. In comparison under the Statehood Act, the State was awarded 103 million acres now in the process of withdrawal.

In his testimony this week, Congressman Howard W. Pollock pointed out:


"Set out against a map of Alaska, the grants of land to the Alaskan native villages do not appear overwhelming. Certainly they are far more reasonable when viewed in relationship to those lands which the native people through their protests, claim they historically have used and occupied throughout history."

Also in his testimony this week, Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel proposed that Alaska natives be awarded 27 million acres.

THAT'S A FACT

GOOD OLD "O"!

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE FIRST ALPHABET WAS DEVELOPED BY THE NORTH SEMITIC PEOPLE ABOUT 2,000 B.C. ITS "O" HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED, MAKING THIS LETTER THE OLDEST OF ALL LETTERS!



WHEN ABEL LINCOLN SAID...

"I GO FOR ALL SHARING THE PRIVILEGES OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO ASSIST IN BEARING ITS BURDENS." HE MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN PREDICTING THE SUPPORT AMERICANS WOULD GIVE THEIR COUNTRY BY PURCHASING U.S. SAVINGS BONDS!

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HANG IT!

A PAINTING BY THE FRENCH ARTIST, MATISSE, HUNG UPSIDE DOWN AT NEW YORK'S MUSEUM OF MODERN ART FOR A PERIOD OF 47 DAYS! DURING THAT PERIOD 116,000 PEOPLE VIEWED THE PICTURE WITHOUT COMMENT OR CORRECTION!

EXTRA BENEFIT!

PAYMENT OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX ON BOND INTEREST MAY BE DEFERRED UNTIL BONDS ARE REDEEMED! AND THERE'S NO STATE OR LOCAL INCOME TAX AT ALL!

SASSARA...

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on that land for hundreds of years. The State should assist any citizen in any claim before Congress."

"U. S. history shows that white men have usually cheated and mistreated the First Americans. Let's show that we've learned to treat all Americans equally," Sassara urged.

"The Natives are pressing their claim before the U. S. Congress this week. They should have the full support of the State Government. The State can't continue to change its position and expect Congress to consider the State as sincere in wanting a settlement."

"Let those people have a grubstake in the same way so many homesteaders and businessmen started. Then the Alaska Natives can move into the modern world on their own, instead of being kept as words of the bureaucrats in Juneau and Washington."

Sassara urged Alaskans to wire the Senate Interior Committee supporting a generous settlement. The Committee headed by Senator Henry Jackson, D-Washington, is holding hearings in Washington, D. C. starting Monday, August 4.