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FAMOUS COLUMNIST KEYNOTER



WASHINGTON, D.C. Sept. 3, 1970—Mrs. Laura Bergt, Fairbanks, poses in office of the Vice President with aide C.D. Ward and Robert Robertson, Executive Director, National Council on Indian Opportunity, which is chaired by the Vice President, after having been sworn in as one of eight new Indian members appointed by the President

from across the country to serve two-year terms. Mrs. Bergt will be chairing two regional meetings with Indians and Natives in Fairbanks, the first of which is to be held October 2. She and her husband, Neil, and their children reside in Fairbanks.

Laura Bergt to Chair NCIO Meeting in Fairbanks

Indian and Eskimo leaders from across the State are scheduled to meet in October to discuss President Nixon's Indian legislative program, Laura Bergt announced this week.

Mrs. Bergt, of Fairbanks, is the regional representative for Alaska on the National Council on Indian Opportunity. She tentatively plans to call Alaska's native leaders together for a regional meeting in Fairbanks, Oct. 2. The date and location will be confirmed as soon as possible.

The President's legislative program mentioned above consists of seven bills sent to Congress in July by Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel. The bills are designed to implement the dramatic new Indian policy announced in President Nixon's message to Congress on July 8,

1970. In the message, Nixon called for a comprehensive program
(Continued on Page 6.)

Nome School System Uneasy

By SUSAN TAYLOR
Staff Writer
(SECOND OF TWO STORIES)

The doors of the Nome Public School and the William E. Beltz Regional High School swung open on the same day this year in preparation for the time when all the students will enter through one set of doors—those of the Nome-Beltz School. The time for consolidation is still a couple of years away and will require a doubling of the classroom space at Beltz, the site of the merged school.

However, school officials

from both systems are taking small steps now in order to make the transition as easy as possible.

During a recent interview at Nome, these officials looked to a brighter future as they discussed the changes now taking place.

The past has held little brightness.

As discussed in last week's article, both schools have been strongly criticized: Nome for its loss of accreditation and poor teaching facilities; Beltz, a boarding school, for a poor academic program and lack of recreational and planned activities. Both have about 150 students in grades 9-12.

The Beltz Regional School Board is scheduled to meet this week in Nome to discuss the merger and other plans for the two school. The board is comprised of representatives from each of the villages sending students to Beltz.

Superintendent of both schools, Ira Alley, pointed out that the board will also be reviewing educational specifications for the merged school which have already been approved by the Nome School Board.

These specifications contain a guiding philosophy of education for the region as well as a

Banquet Speaker Jack Anderson Successor of Late Drew Pearson

The famous columnist, Jack Anderson, who writes the world renowned column, Washington "Merry Go Round," has confirmed his willingness to be the principal speaker at the Tundra Times' 8th anniversary banquet in Fairbanks on October 3.

Reputedly the largest syndicated political columnist in the United States, Anderson will speak on this year's Tundra Times banquet theme: "Communications: Bridges to Understanding."

Jack Anderson was the protégé and top assistant to the late Drew Pearson who authored the "Merry Go Round" for many years before his death about a year and half ago.

Anderson stepped into the considerable and controversial Drew Pearson shoes after the latter's death.

The famed columnist will be conferred a Communications Award from the board of directors of the Tundra Times.

The award plaque is being designed by the prominent Eskimo artist, Prof. Ronald Senungetuk of the art department of the University of Alaska. He is a member of the board of the newspaper.

The banquet will be held at the Civic Center at Alaskaland

on the evening of October 3 starting with a no-host cocktail hour at 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at which time the banquet will begin.

Many dignitaries will be attending. Gov. Keith H. Miller, however, will not be able to attend but his campaign headquarters in Anchorage told the Tundra Times that he will send his Secretary of State, Robert Ward to speak in his behalf.

The Alaska congressional delegation, Sen. Mike Gravel, Sen. Ted Stevens and Congressman Howard Poflock are expected to attend.

Former Gov. William A. Egan, who was nominated gubernatorial candidate in the recent primary election, has accepted the newspaper's invitation.

A large congregation of native leaders will be present. Although not confirmed as yet, the board of directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives is expected to meet in Fairbanks around the banquet date.

Some of the native leaders have been scheduled to take part in the regional meeting of the National Council on Indian Opportunity on October 2 in Fairbanks.

The meeting is being coordinated by James Thomas, Public Relations Director of the National Congress of American Indians

(Continued on page 6)

ASNA Installs Charles Edwardson as Director

A 28-year-old Barrow man who has been described as "the grandfather of the Arctic Slope Native Association" has become the organization's new executive director.

Charlie Edwardson, Jr. succeeded Sam Talaak, who held the position several months following the resignation of Eben Hopson, who assumed the duties of executive director of the Alaska Federation of Natives in Anchorage.

Edwardson was unavailable for comment because he is in Washington, D.C. with the AFN delegation working for the passage of a land claims bill in the U.S. House of Representatives.

According to Joe Upicksoun, president of the Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA), Edwardson has made several trips

before to Washington and worked on the sidelines for the ASNA land claims position.

Currently in Washington with Edwardson is Wesley Aiken, also of the organization.

"He's just wonderful," explained Upicksoun, in describing the new executive director. "We are real glad we were able to harness his energies."

Upicksoun added that Edwardson was the originator of ASNA when it was founded in 1966. Now representing about 4,000 Eskimos, the organization includes Barrow, Anaktuvuk Pass, Barter Island, Point Hope, and Wainwright.

Talaak, the former director, was notified at a board meeting the first part of August, Upicksoun said, that the organization

(Continued on Page 6.)

Very Little Claims News Available Today

Executive sessions on the Alaska Native land claims settlement, which is currently under consideration by the U.S. House Indian Affairs subcommittee, were scheduled to come to a close today.

At-press time the Tundra Times had heard no reports concerning action taken by the committee.

Native leaders have been in Washington for the past week

working for a bill that would be fair to Alaska's 55,000 Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts.

A land claims bill has already passed the Senate, but it is feared that the House will not act on the matter before the scheduled adjournment date the middle of October.

Reportedly, the committee was starting from scratch and drafting its own bill rather than using the Senate bill as a base.