

Gravel Receives Assurances Land Claims Bill Top Priority

WASHINGTON—Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) has received assurances from Congressman James Haley (D-Fla.), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Indian Affairs, that the Alaskan Native Land Claims Bill has "top priority" on the subcommittee's agenda.

Senator Gravel received the assurances during a lengthy meeting held with Chairman Haley last week to review the prospects for final Congressional action on the land claims measure.

The Senator said Chairman Haley told him that he is aware of the legislation's importance to Alaska and promised to work

"diligently" to get a bill before the full House Interior Committee "as soon as possible."

Senator Gravel said he was "tremendously impressed by the Chairman's sincerity and his intense desire to do something worthy and beneficial for the entire Alaskan community."

"I was greatly encouraged by my meeting with Chairman Haley today," the Senator said,

"and am now more hopeful than ever that the Land Claims Bill can be acted upon before the end of the current session of Congress."

"Certainly, I intend to do everything within my power to see that this is done," he declared. "The issue is too vital to Alaska's growth and social development to be delayed any longer."

Engineering Technician Training Course Recruitment Underway

Recruitment is underway for an engineering technician training course which begins October 12 at the Anchorage Community College. James E. O'Rourke, manager of the Fairbanks Manpower Center announced today.

According to Mr. O'Rourke, the 25-week course is a Manpower Development and Training Act program that is jointly sponsored by the State Department of Labor and the Division of Vocational and Adult Education in the Alaska Department of Education.

The engineering technician training will prepare trainees in various phases of highway and

land surveying. The course is designed to offer entry level training as well as improvement of present skills.

Tuition and training allowances will be paid from Federal funds to persons who meet the minimum requirements for the course.

Graduates will be eligible for employment by Federal, State, and private employers who use engineering aides.

For further information contact the Fairbanks Manpower Center in Room 131, State Court & Office Building, or phone 452-1501.

NCIO Meet . . .

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that would give the Indians greater control over their destiny and end Federal paternalism toward them.

Each of the seven bills has been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate but none have been passed, Mrs. Bergt said.

Expressing an attitude of optimism about the proposed legislation, Mrs. Bergt said that, if enacted, it will give Indians and Eskimos a strong voice in their welfare as far as health, education, and business opportunities are concerned.

It is encouraging that legislation was introduced following the President's message, she added, and shows that he was sincere.

Following the regional meeting in Alaska and similar ones throughout the United States, the eight-member National Council on Indian Opportunity, will meet in Anchorage to decide what to do with the recommendations and opinions collected from across the nation.

All of the council members have very strongly voiced the feeling, Mrs. Bergt said, that they wanted the meetings to lead to action.

The seven bills to be discussed are summarized as follows:

—A bill to authorize Indian tribes and communities to assume control of federal programs and services provided for them by the Department of the Interior and the Indian Health Service.

—A bill to retain civil service coverage for employees of the federal government who transfer to Indian tribal organizations as these organizations assume control of various federal programs.

—A bill to establish an independent Indian Trust Counsel authority to provide independent legal representation for the Indians' natural resource rights. Such representation is now the responsibility of the Departments of Interior and Justice, which is often faced with a conflict of interest in such cases.

—A bill to provide for direct allocation of Johnson-O'Malley (education) funds to Indian tribes which could then control their own schools.

—A bill to permit impoundment of livestock trespassing on Indian land and institute a system of fines for recovery of the stock.

—A bill to increase the revolving loan fund, which loans money for Indian economic development projects, and to set up a fund for the insurance and guarantee of loans made to Indian tribes in order to encourage private lenders to loan more money for Indian economic projects.

—A bill to establish an Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indians and Territorial Affairs.

selors who might be able to direct students in the vocational arts.

As one step toward consolidation, Alley explained, the two schools are operating on the exact same schedules for the first time.

Furthermore, some of the students are being exchanged on a two-hour block for certain classes. The Beltz School is about three and a half miles from the downtown Nome School.

And, Alley added, some of the teachers are splitting their time between the two schools.

Also, a joint effort will be made to attain accreditation for both schools. Nome High School lost its accreditation about 2 years ago. Beltz, which opened in 1966, as a new school is required to conduct a three-year self-evaluation before seeking accreditation.

A steering committee was appointed at a joint meeting of the two faculties, Alley said, to seek accreditation of Nome and Beltz simultaneously so that when they merge, the merged school will be accredited.

Possibly, the most noticeable changes in the schools have been in personnel.

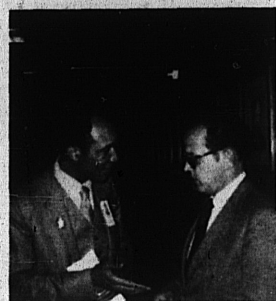
Alley, a former elementary principal in Nome, replaces Clifford Meyers, who reportedly left the position to further his education.

Beltz High School has a new principal, Donald Flippo from Mobile, Ala. During the interview, he seemed more than willing to meet the students halfway in improving conditions at the school.

The dormitory operation there will be headed by John Leonard, who has taught at the school for a couple of years. A largely-built man, Leonard has received compliments from several sources on his ability to communicate and work with the students.

Concerning specific changes at Beltz, Flippo said, the school will try to transport as many teachers as possible out to the villages on breaks or holidays so that they can better understand the background of their students.

Selwyn Carrol Hits FAA Hiring Practices



CONFERRING—Selwyn Carrol is seen talking with Sen. Ted Stevens discussing Northway hiring practices.

Selwyn Carrol, Republican candidate for the State House, has asked Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska to investigate FAA hiring practices at Northway, a small town near the Canadian border on the Alaska Highway.

Carrol made the request after campaigning at Northway and discussing employment with Natives there.

"Most of the men in the village were not employed," he said, "and their living conditions were appalling and with the winter months ahead, there seems to be little help for them except public assistance."

Some of the men, he continued, asserted that the FAA hired "hitch hikers" instead of local Natives. Carrol added that the FAA is the only source of employment in the village.

Following a discussion with Carrol about the assertion, Sen. Stevens wrote John Shaffer, FAA Administrator in Washington, D.C. and asked him to investigate the hiring procedures and equal employment oppor-

tunities for Alaska Natives.

Stevens requested a report on the number of Alaska Natives employed at the Northway Station during the past year, their occupation, and per cent of total work force.

The Senator replied that he would contact Carrol as soon as he heard from Shaffer.

Ben Reifel Accepts Post

Congressman Ben Reifel (R-S.D.), the only American Indian in the U.S. Congress, has accepted the national chairmanship of the Indian Council Fire Achievement Award, Inc., it is announced recently.

The Award, the only national recognition for American Indians of accomplishment and distinction, will be presented in November instead of September as usual.

Names of nominees are now being considered by the Jury of Award and the winner will be

announced shortly.

The Award, in the form of a bronze medallion, originated at the Chicago Century of Progress in 1933.

It is owned by Indian Council Fire Achievement Award, Inc., an organization chartered in February of this year as a not-for-profit organization under the laws of Illinois.

The organization was formed to perpetuate the annual Award and to expand the Award program.

Charles Edwardson . . .

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could not retain an executive director because it was running low on funds. He was told his term would expire Aug. 31.

The board also decided that in the event an executive director could later be hired, the position would be advertised, Upickson added.

The Barrow ASNA chairman

and his committee, Upickson continued, were able to raise some funds and hence advertised the position. Edwardson, the only one to apply, filled that position Sept. 1.

The board and the ASNA attorneys are very delighted that he made himself available for the job, Upickson said.

Banquet Speaker . . .

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use of skilled workers as counted that has contracted with the NCIO to hold regional meetings.

That meeting will be conducted and chaired by Mrs. Laura Bergt, who was recently appointed by President Richard Nixon to be a member of the NCIO from the 8th region.

Tanana Chiefs Conference is also scheduled to meet in Fairbanks on October 2 to discuss land claims matters and to work out a schedule of presentation to the annual conference of the Alaska Federation of Natives in Anchorage on October 15-17.

All of the state legislators and nominated candidates have been invited.

Miss Alaska, Ginny Walker of Kotzebue, has been invited to the banquet and Miss World Eskimo Olympics of 1970, Jo Ann Joseph of Stevens Village, will also attend.

Food for the banquet is being handled by Sam Kito who is in the process of lining up 250 pounds of king crab from Kodiak with the help of Harry Carter, president of the Kodiak Area Native Association.

Kito has already lined up 250 pounds of king salmon from

Southeastern Alaska and is now working to get reindeer meat from Nome.

Catering and cocktail hour service will be handled by Count's of Fairbanks.

James Thomas, of the NCAI, will again be the master of ceremonies. He was MC last year at the Tundra Times dinner in Anchorage at which famous actor Vincent Price was the principal speaker.

Jim Thomas is a Tlingit Indian from Yakutat. He was instantly successful at last year's dinner when he kept over 600 people amused throughout the evening.

The Tundra Times board is planning a dinner reception for Jack Anderson but this will depend on Anderson's itinerary.

Dinner guests are requested to send in for tickets along with payments so they can be listed. They are also requested to give instructions whether to hold the tickets at the Tundra Times office to be picked up on arrival in Fairbanks.

Admission prices will be the same as last year at \$25 per couple and \$15 single. Dress for the banquet will be semi-formal.