



BELUGA BUTCHERING—Two beluga hunters are butchering a beluga while tourists and local Kotzebue children watch with interest. This is a common sight during late spring or early summer at Kotzebue. In the background is

the Wien Arctic Hotel.

—Wien Consolidated Airlines Photo by FRANK WHALEY

Joint Statement . . .

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the meetings and reports of the Governor's Committee on Rural Education in Alaska.

THE STATE of Alaska has the basic responsibility of education for all its citizens. This involves the complete transfer of BIA operated schools to the State's control. This is being done with deliberate speed. More than 60 schools have passed from Bureau to State control. Ten were transferred last year; more are being prepared for transfer soon.

"MUTUAL READINESS" is the principle being followed in the school transfer process. There are three parties to most transfers: The BIA, the State of Alaska (or borough), and the local community (or in the case of Mt. Edgecumbe High School, the Native people of the entire state). The principle of mutual readiness insures that no damage or disruption will result to the education program as a result of the change in administration, and that the schools' patrons will be consulted and involved.

SEGREGATION in Alaska's schools is an immensely complex issue. Transfer of schools from BIA to state control is in no way part of the solution. In actual fact, the Bureau's schools are neither more nor less segregated than comparable State-operated schools. Both agencies operate day schools enrolling all of the students in the community. Both operate boarding schools capable of enrolling non-Native as well as Native students. If policy changes are required to shift students to other schools, they are equally possible under BIA,

or State school operations. A greater freedom of school choice is currently being offered to both students and their parents. Long-range construction programs of both the state and federal governments are designed to provide greater opportunities for secondary students.

THERE ARE some differences between the schools operated by the BIA and those operated by the Alaska Department of Education. Basically, however, they are all good, sound schools. If each could adopt the best qualities of the others, they would be greatly improved, but the resources needed to make improvements are not available.

THE UNIQUE educational needs of a people with cultural and language differences, geographic isolation, and economic handicaps such as those in Alaska are enormous. So are the costs! Alaska now spends \$1,000 per pupil each year in the rural areas—twice the national average. It is still not enough!

THE RESULTS are still encouraging, despite serious drawbacks. Students from remote Native communities generally progress at a lower rate than do the students in our modern affluent communities. This should come as no great surprise. What is unique is that over 95% of all rural children, ages 6-18, are in school. Furthermore, although the BIA's Mt. Edgecumbe school enrolls only 16% of the state's high school students, 30% of all Alaska Native students in colleges and universities are Mt. Edgecumbe graduates.

Dinner Set For Gruening In Anchorage

A testimonial fund-raising dinner for Senator Ernest Gruening which had to be postponed in June because the scheduled speaker, Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York, was assassinated has been rescheduled for August 14, co-chairmen James J. Hurley and Mrs. William B. Garrison announced this week.

Tickets for the Anchorage dinner are now available at the Gruening campaign headquarters in the Pioneers Building at 612 F Street. Dinner tickets are priced at \$50 per plate.

Preceding the dinner at the Anchorage Westward Hotel grand ballroom a VIP cocktail party will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tryck at 1801 13th Avenue.

Purchase of a \$100 ticket to the cocktail party will include a dinner ticket for the purchaser and will entitle him to bring his wife if an additional \$50 dinner ticket is purchased for her, Hurley and Mrs. Garrison explained.

THE BUREAU of Indian Affairs and the State of Alaska are working cooperatively to achieve a unified, quality system of education for rural and Native Alaska. It is only through such mutual action, coupled with the active interest and involvement of local people that the highest goals can be achieved. The BIA and the State will continue to operate toward these goals, cooperatively.

Immediate Training . . .

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discovery, Rasmuson said, "I predict it will last for a hundred years."

"I think that this is the opportunity for our native people to help build roads, pipelines and airfields and also to handle the technical engineering and management jobs in our refineries and our petrochemical industries," he said.

He said that to do this a speedup in training in all our schools, including University of Alaska, is needed. "I would like to see training started right this year," he stated.

He said there should be "an agreement by both government and private industry to hire our native Alaskans."

Rasmuson said that training should start in several places, at the University of Alaska, community colleges and high schools.

"The training should be in every line, geology, petroleum engineering, welding, that's important in laying pipes, electronics, computers, business administration. You've got to sell oil and gas," he said.

"This would all tie in with the further development that will come with a prompt and generous settlement of the native land claims," Rasmuson added.

He said he has supported Gov. Walter J. Hickel's task force of native leaders on land claims. He was impressed, he said, with what the leaders worked out together with our state government and the resulting bill drafted should be enacted immediately.

"In order to do this, I pro-

pose that we organize a statewide task force representative of all people and industry comparable to what we did to get statehood and thus show that the settlement is of urgent benefit to every Alaskan," Rasmuson stated.

"In my travels throughout Alaska," he continued, "in the Aleutians, southeastern towns and villages, logging camps, canneries, interior and the Arctic, I find general agreement that everyone wants to get a prompt and fair settlement of the native land claims."

"And I'm confident that I can help organize the support of the various industries and business people to get this job done and then go on to the great development that lies in store for all our people of Alaska."

Rasmuson said that the discovery of vast deposits of oil in the Arctic will have tremendous impact on Alaska but that ultimately, "It's the natural gas industry that will develop for the benefit of our resident Alaskans."

Nothing is so difficult but that it may be found by seeking.

