

HEARING AND TRIP PHOTOS OF KENNEDY TOUR



HEARING, TRIP—Top left is Miss Margaret Nick of Nunapitchuk testifying at Fairbanks Kennedy hearing. Below her is former chief of Minto, Peter John. Top right, Native leaders, Emil Notti, left, and Rep. William Hensley, right, are jointly testifying. Below, right, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, center of photo, is being greeted by young people at his arrival at Bethel.



(All photographs of Sen. Ted Kennedy's tour and hearings by THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.)

Sackett Sags— 7 of 15 Hrs. of Stick Dance Tires Sackett

Representative John Sackett, of Huslia, was in Fairbanks this week on his way back to Juneau. The legislator had just returned from Nulato, where he participated in their annual potlatch and stick dance.

The stick dance, performed in honor of the people who assisted in burial of the townspeople, commemorates the dead. It was held on Friday evening, continuing for fifteen hours. Unlike most other Athabascan dances, the men do not dance. The women dance while the men sing.

Sackett arrived in Nulato Friday morning. He feasted Friday evening before singing in the stick dance. He sang until he lost his voice, some seven hours later. Others continued the dance for eight more hours.

The event began on Monday, April 7, and lasted through Sunday, April 13. A potlatch was held each evening, accompanied with the performance of the washtub dance which lasted for three hours.

Representative Sackett termed it a "good break." "I got to eat everything I wanted," he said. "I ate dried fish until it was coming out of my ears."

Nulato was bulging with a great many visitors who had travelled by air, sno-go, and dog team to participate in the event which is usually held only once every three years.

The reason that is hosted so infrequently is because of the

elaborate preparations required on behalf of the villagers.

Mrs. Poldine Carlo, one of many Fairbanksans who had come for the potlatch and dances, said "it holds so much meaning that it is not put on for show." It is intended for "paying back all the people who, helped in burial of relatives" of the villagers.

She stated that those who assisted in burial are provided with a complete new wardrobe "from mukluks to fur mittens."

The occasion was climaxed Sunday with the performance of the Eskimo mask dance. The dance is not native to Nulato and it is theorized that it was passed to Nulato from Unalakleet due to the close association between the two villages.

In this dance, a string is tied across a hall and a canvas hung over it. The women then dance, carrying the food to the canvas for the final feast.

There were a total of eight people dressed in appreciation for their assistance. The ceremonies are so old that nobody knows how they began.

Those outfitted with a complete wardrobe included Allen Agnes, Martha Brush, Victor George, Florence Ekaea, Alice Hildebrand, Elmer Minook, and Vivian Peter.

Fairbanksans in attendance included Father Loyens, Florence Keyes, Father McNeal, Ralph Perdue, Minnie Robertson, and Mr. and Mrs. Gareth Wright.

Budget Bureau, BIA Release Regional High School Funds

WASHINGTON—The Bureau of the Budget has approved the expenditure of \$9,582,000 to build the first regional high school facilities in Alaska, U.S. Senator Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, announced yesterday.

Gravel said both the BOB and the Bureau of Indian Affairs have agreed to the release of the funds originally appropriated for repair of the BIA's facilities at Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka.

The appropriation had been blocked by the Budget Bureau after the BIA issued a report indicating that facilities at the school were too old to justify such a large expenditure.

The present plan was the result of a two-day conference co-chaired in Sitka last December by Senator Gravel and Rep. Howard Pollock, which featured testimony by dozens of native leaders, and federal and state officials.

The plan calls for the construction of mobile classrooms at Kotzebue and Point Barrow, and permanent dormitories and classrooms in Bethel, Fairbanks, and Sitka, to house and teach high school students from out-

lying areas of Alaska.

Senator Gravel said he had received the following breakdown of approved expenditures from the Budget Bureau.

\$56,000 for classrooms at Kotzebue and Point Barrow.

\$3,404,000 for the construction of dormitory and classroom facilities at Bethel.

\$2,752,000 for the construction of a dormitory at Fairbanks; \$2,830,000 for dormitory facilities in Sitka.

The Senator said that final approval of the expenditures must await action by the Interior subcommittee of both the House and Senate appropriations committees, but that both chairmen have previously indicated their approval of the concept of the plan.

The subcommittee chairmen are Senator Alan Bible, D-Nevada and Rep. Julia Butler Hansen, D-Washington.

"Both Senator Bible and Rep. Hansen are aware of the need for rapid action," Gravel said. They understand the need for regional high schools and the importance of fast action if construction is to be started this season."

He said he felt confident both committees would approve the expenditures within a "reasonably short time."

Senator Gravel, attending Economic Development Subcommittee hearings in several western cities was advised of the Budget Bureau action by telephone.

"I am very pleased," he said. "In fact, I am delighted. I have been working on the regional high school concept since I introduced the plan in the State House of Representatives in 1965."

"The real significance of the realization of regional high schools in Alaska can best be measured in what it will mean to native parents and students who will not be so widely separated during the school year."

"I consider this to be one of the most important steps ever taken to provide Alaskans living in the villages and the bush country with an opportunity to obtain a good education without being forced to leave their home state."

"Now it is up to the BIA to get busy and start building."