

Native Oriented Studies at UA...

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the man chosen by the student members of the Special Orientation Services Board to organize the native studies program.

As he, the instructors in native politics, history, literature and skin sewing have planned the courses, each of the four courses are unique.

Three of the classes—politics, history and literature—have each invited 12 expert native speakers from all over Alaska to address their classes on specific subjects.

The speakers range from Mrs. Genevieve Soboleff, who led off the Indian, Eskimo, Aleut literature class with a talk on Haida legends to such noted figures as AFN President Don Wright,

invited to speak to the native politics course on the vital subject of land claims.

Most of the speakers on native literature are native story tellers, often old people with an encyclopedia knowledge of the traditional literature of their people. Much of this tradition has never been recorded. The native students in the literature course will record these stories and legends as their class projects—assuring that at least a portion of their tradition will not die with the older generation.

Each of the four present native studies courses is part of a different academic department. None of them will use textbooks,

there are none.

The University professors who lead the courses are enthusiastic and experimental. Professor Gordon Harrison, who leads the native politics class, has adopted the TUNDRA TIMES as required class reading material.

He hopes to interest one or more students in native journalism as a participation class project. For native literature, many students will return to their villages to collect traditional stories.

Native studies is burgeoning out in the curriculum of many high schools and colleges in Alaska within the last few years, says Dr. Soboleff.

At UA, they have more native students on campus than ever before—almost 300. At the UA and other Alaskan schools, courses have cropped up in Eskimo and Indian languages, in Tlingit, Eskimo, Athabaskan and Aleut cultures.

Both native and non-native students have flocked into the courses. The heritage class at UA drew almost 50 students before the University closed it. The other native studies courses have students on waiting lists for next semester.

Dr. Walter Soboleff, former president of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, political figure, educator, forsee an expansion of native studies to a point where a student can major in the study of a native people in Alaska—perhaps to fill one of the burgeoning positions in Alaska which demand people who know about their own native culture and about the other native cultures in Alaska.

Historic Meeting...

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the President, "is approximately the same distance between Tokyo and Washington, D.C. And this fact reminds us that for the past quarter century we have built a structure of political economic and cultural ties which spans the space between our two countries."

The President expressed hope that his historic meeting would "demonstrate for all the years to come a determination of our two great peoples to work together in friendship for peace and prosperity for the Pacific and for all people in the world."

Emperor Hirohito responded by reading a prepared statement, expressing appreciation of the "manifestation of your very special good will and interest for the Japanese people and ourselves" the fact that "you have come over a long way to meet us personally" in spite of the fact that "you are so pressed with matters of state."

The emperor spoke in Japanese while the Nixons and the rest of the audience listened quietly and awaited for the translation to follow.

"I constantly raise to heart that all the Presidents of the United States, and her Government and the people, have given us unstinted assistance, materially and morally, after the end of the war, in the restoration and building up of our country," he said. "I take this opportunity to express my most sincere gratitude for it."

The Emperor was in Alaska for about 100 minutes as his Japan Airlines charter plane stopped for refueling enroute to a seven-nation tour of Europe. The plane will refuel in Anchorage again Oct. 14 on the way back to Tokyo, but His Imperial Highness will not get out.

After the brief welcoming ceremonies, the visiting royalty and the Nixons drove to the nearby home of Gen. Ruegg on the base for informal talks.

Although only 5,000 people could be on hand in hanger five for the arrival ceremonies, the affair was broadcast live into millions of homes in Japan, as well as thousands of homes in Alaska's major cities.

Shortly before midnight the Japanese visitors were again in the air and the Nixons, exhausted after a tiring day, retired for the night at the Ruegg residence.

On Monday morning President Nixon flew off into the wild blue yonder for Washington without answering any of the three burning questions affecting the Alaskan natives.

Many had speculated that during the President's 14-hour stay in Anchorage, he might call off the Amchitka blast, make a statement on Native land claims, or discuss the status of the Alaska pipeline.

He mentioned none of these.

Instead, he concentrated on making friends with the 200 guests at the Walter Hickel reception, waving at half the population of Anchorage which turned out to wave at the President, and greeting the Emperor.

At one point on Fourth Avenue, President Nixon stopped his motorcade to get out and shake hands with the people. As he did so, the crowd began streaming through the rope barriers to get a closer look and the police had a difficult time clearing the street so the entourage could get going again.

Mothers held up their children so they could see the President's car as it passed by. Many waved flags. Some carried signs such as "Welcome to the Great Land," "Hail to the Chief," and "God Bless Our President."

Not all the signs were happy ones. Many were written as a protest to Cannikin, the proposed underground nuclear test on Amchitka.

"Can Cannikin," read one sign. Another said "Bomb the Pentagon, not Amchitka." A St. Bernard wore a sign "Make puppies, not bombs."

If there were lots of protest signs, the predominate mood was frantic waving by nearly everyone as the President passed by. People even waved at the Alaska Press bus which brought up the rear of the parade following two busloads of White House photographers and journalists.

It was a day that will long be remembered by those in Anchorage on Sunday, September 26, 1971.

Robert Koweluk, an Eskimo photographer, summed up the sentiments of the day with one word: "Tremendous!"

Land, Water Rights...

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behalf of Indians, the Government should be disbanded."

Over a year ago the President admitted in a message to Congress that "Every trustee has a legal obligation to advance the interests of the beneficiaries of the trust without reservation and with the highest degree of diligence and skill."

Under present conditions, it is often difficult for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice to fulfill this obligation. "When conflicts arise," added the President, "the Indians are the losers."

Senator Kennedy observed that "One would think that a President who can wage wars, create departments, and freeze wages could certainly do something to protect Indian rights."

"Yet the best this Administration has done in response to the voiced concern with these conflicts of interest is to send a bill to Congress. In recent letters, White House and Interior

Department officials have reiterated concern but also repeated the conclusion that only legislation—the Trust Counsel bill—can resolve the conflicts.

"I for one believe that immediate administrative actions must be taken to insure that there will be Indian property to be protected by the time the Trust Counsel bill can be passed."

In December 1970 Senator Kennedy's subcommittee published "A Study of Administrative Conflicts of Interest in the Protection of Indian Natural Resources."

This publication documented specific instances where Indian interests were giving way to other governmental interests through inadequate or nonexistent responses of the United States to Indian needs.

Some specific recommendations for administrative actions were contained in the print—none of which have been adopted by the Government.

Donates To Hope Cottage

The Fairbanks Homemaker's Council representative, Mrs. Eva Stevenson, recently made presentation to Hope Cottage of a check in the amount of \$180.00.

The check is a donation from the Council to aid Hope Cottage in the work for the retarded children of Alaska.

Kwethluk Home Grant

A \$35,000 contract has been awarded to the Moravian Children's Home at Kwethluk for care of native children, U.S. Senator Ted Stevens reports.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs contract is under a program which finances care of Indian children in specialized institutions and schools.

Aleut Testimonies...

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presenting his case on Monday he faced a neatly arrayed barrage of AEC administrators and scientific experts—biologists, seismologists, administrators, lawyers and other officials.

Two Aleut witnesses led off the testimony, after a lengthy discussion of whether the U.S. District Court had jurisdiction in the matter. First came Iliodor Philemonof, polished, AFN employed leader of the 3500 member Aleut League.

Philemonof, a native of the Pribilof Island of St. George who lives in Anchorage introduced the court to the concept of his organization, the life style of the isolated Aleutian islands and their land and sea dependent economy.

Then, preceding a barrage of expert witnesses from both the plaintiff and the defense, came Philemonof Tutiakoff.

Tutiakoff, a member of the Unalaska City Council, is a short hunchbacked Aleut from that village who is now in Anchorage studying to become a social worker in his village.

He described the reactions of his people to the proposed Cannikin blast as compounded of deep fear and resentment.

Nobody consulted his people, he testified, before they planned actions which may vitally affect or alter their lives and livelihoods.

Other Aleut village councils, he testified, have sent inquiries to Unalaska asking them to join with them in a united front against the blast.

"We've got to 'do something about it'" his people say about Cannikin. Maybe weapons have to be tested, they admit, but why near them?

Maybe not so near, emphasized AEC chief counsel Thomas Fleming in his cross examinations and presentation. He stressed that each of the Aleut villages is at least several hundred miles from Amchitka—the proposed blast site.

Yet, said Tutiakoff, the prospect creates great fear. People in Unalaska experience many, many earthquakes, he said. Yet, they never get used to them. When the icons begin to fall from their places in the church and the ground rolls, they fear each time.

In this modern courtroom dominated by AEC lawyers and

witnesses, sprinkled with spectators wearing red buttons with the message "I'M AG'IN CANNIKIN", the issue of whether the AEC has fulfilled its responsibilities to U.S. law and specifically as regards the Aleut people, will be decided.

The Aleut League planned there expert witnesses on its side—scientists imported from Denver and Cambridge who doubt AEC conclusions from their scientific findings—who think earthquake, tsunami, radiation damage are statistically significant dangers.

"What we want to bring out is that there are important questions still open," commented Hugh Fleischer as the first morning of what looked like a two day hearing drew to a close.

He, as well as many others, had hoped President Nixon would cancel the planned 5 megaton test on the Aleutian island of Amchitka during his visit to Anchorage.

The President did not. So at 9:30 a.m. on a sunny Anchorage Monday, attorneys and witnesses assembled to present their cases.

By Tuesday afternoon, the court planned to end the barrage of witnesses and exhibits and consider motions for dismissal before considering the injunction itself.

The Aleut League claims that the Atomic Energy Commission is violating its authority by acting prejudicially towards their people, among other shortcomings. It claims the arbitrary choice of Amchitka as a blast site threatens the civil rights of their members, violating some specifications of the Environmental Policy Act as well.

Meanwhile, an Aleut man from Unalaska, one of what appeared to be only two native witnesses in a case involving 3500 members of the Aleut League, impressed many spectators by his description of isolation and subsistence living in Atka.

"They're luckier than the people at Unalaska," he said. "They don't have to depend on the store."

There is little cargo service or even mail delivery on Atka. Yet, even there, people have heard about Cannikin—and they fear its effects.

House Claims Bill...

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members were on hand. Representative Begich personally made 19 phone calls early this morning urging Interior Committee members to attend today's mark-up session.

"Needless to say, I am extremely pleased. All Alaskans, and I emphasize all, can share in applauding this bill. I think there is much hard work ahead but at this time, I believe we can be optimistic," the legislator said.

Congressman Begich noted with obvious pride that "never

before has the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee considered and approved a Native Land Claims settlement.

There are many Congressmen such as Chairman Aspinall and Subcommittee Chairman Haley who have great interest in the bill and are working extremely hard on this legislation."

The bill is scheduled to be sent to the House Rules Committee next Thursday and then on to the House for full action later this session, possibly in the first part of October.