

14 Northern Villages To Get Magistrates

The state judicial system is coming soon to 14 northern Alaska villages, it was announced last week. Meeting with the Judicial Council at Nome, Alaska Supreme Court Chief Justice Buel A. Nesbett announced that lay magistrates will be appointed at Wainwright, Gambell, Emm-onak, Wales, Pint Hope, Buckland, Teller, Selawik, Noorvik, Kiana, Hooper Bay and Nuesto.

Any fourth class city that passes laws and ordinances, hires police, and provides a jail is now eligible for a magistrate Justice Nesbett explained.

Villages will be asked to help select their own magistrates.

Appointees will attend a two-week school at Nome to learn their responsibilities and duties. ASCAP has been asked to sponsor the school and has applied for a \$10,000

grant.

The villages were helped to set up their laws by Arthur Nagazruk, Bureau of Indian Affairs tribal relations officer. He worked out sample laws and ordinances.

"This is a great step forward for native people," Jerome Trigg, president of the Arctic Native Brotherhood and acting president of the Seward Peninsula Native Association said. "We had a pretty good court system of our own and we had no trouble in the past, but the new system will soon become a way of life."

Attending the meeting were village leaders Eugene Geffe, president, Kiana Village Council; Frank Topsekok, vice president, Teller City Council, and Ernest Nylin, president, Elim Village Council. Clyde Howarth, grass roots team aide from Point Hope also attended.

Report . . .

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reported.

Because of short notice, four members of the native group were unable to stay through the end of the meeting and missed the voting. Much time was devoted to trying to understand the bill itself. Hopson felt that the final votes were made without fair native representation.

"The guidelines set up at the meeting do not coincide with the housing need," Hopson stated. He charged that they were arrived at with pressure from the "administration's whipping hand."

Specifically, Hopson called for reconsideration of the requirement that a viable economic base in a village be a prerequisite to qualify and participate in the state housing program. He said that such economic prerequisites lose sight of the actual housing conditions that led to the law in the first place. Many villages and individuals who need housing most would lose out, he said.

He also objected to maintaining a flexible ratio of grant money (up to 75%) to loan money (up to 25%). The ratio would be fixed by the state agency administering the program, based on village needs.

Native representatives urged fixing the ratio at maximum grant, minimum loan, while most state representatives favored flexibility, according to Hopson. "The first million dollars will go to those who need it most," he argued. "After five years of operation at break neck speed of construction, we might be able to change the ratio to another fixed rate as the very needy are taken care of."

Mrs. Laura Bergt wrote nine days ago, asking Governor Hickel to schedule a separate one-day meeting with a few knowledgeable officials for members of the Task Force to clarify their thinking.

She has not yet received a reply.

Task force members have not yet received minutes from the meeting, nor have their official duties been outlined.

Still to be decided is the specific state agency that will administer the housing funds.

Metlakatla Gets Head Start Funds

Metlakatla has been granted \$18,103 this week for a summer Headstart program for 30 pre-school children.

Leaders Wary About Appointment . . .

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tremendously intelligent fellow, but he's also a shift old fox.

"At least with Donald Burr (present attorney general), people knew where he stood. He was definite. But it's difficult to say what Boyko will do. I don't know if he has any specific plans."

Eben Hopson, former state senator from Barrow said, "I really don't know him personally, but from what I've read about him in the

Birchard . . .

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aircraft saluted the general who was an outstanding Air Force leader.

Wednesday at 11 a.m., simultaneous memorial services were conducted at major military installations throughout Alaska.

Services were held at Arlington National Cemetery Chapel, Arlington, Virginia, at 10 a.m., Thursday. Grave-side services followed.

A Requiem Mass for Maj. Norman C. Miller, who died with General Birchard Saturday, was held earlier Tuesday in Elmendorf's Chapel 3. The Rev. Robert Whalen of St. Anthony's Church, Anchorage, offered the mass. Major Miller was buried later in the week at his home town, Fowlerville, Mich.

General Birchard, commander in chief of Alaska military forces, died Saturday in the waters of Upper Ugashik Lake after the plane in which he was riding crashed on takeoff. Major Miller was pilot of the craft.

Major General Thomas E. Moore has temporarily assumed duty as commander in chief, Alaska, following the death last Saturday of Lieutenant General Glen R. Birchard.

Major General Moore will retain command of the Alaskan Air Command during the interim until a new commander in chief, Alaska, is named by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

MAKING PLANS—Five partners of Inupiat Associates will be honored 6:30 p.m. June 9, at the first Fairbanks showing of their crafts at First Federal Savings and Loan art gallery, Cushman and Gaffney. They have been studying this year with Professor Ronald Senungetuk, University of Alaska. Here they work out details for

their own business, scheduled to open later this month in Fairbanks. Left to right are Isaac Koyuk, King Island Village, Nome; Michael Pullock, King Island Village; Alvin Kayouktuk, Little Diomed; David Alvanna, King Island Village and Melvin Olanna, Shishmaref.

Indian Omnibus . . .

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solicit citizens opinions on the bill. Regional B.I.A. superintendents met in Anchorage last week to study its contents. This week they were to generate discussions by visiting villages, broadcasting on the radio and reaching concerned persons by other means at their disposal.

The bill's main feature is a government backing of loans by private banks to persons of one-quarter or more native blood. It is an attempt to bring natives into the mainstream of American commercial life by making it possible for them to borrow with limited collateral.

"As far as I can gather, the bill doesn't really help us," State Rep. William Hensley said at Kotzebue. "It's the same old thing all over again. The bill was designed by Congress to take care of reservation Indians. They're trying to make it sound like it's going to help Alaska. But Alaskan natives aren't on reservations. They don't fit into the mold. Our U.S. senators and representative will have to get on it if changes are to be made."

Hensley snorted at the idea that the Bureau of Indian Affairs officials were going out to the villages to discuss the bill. "The B.I.A. is going to ask villagers for suggestions? That bill is so complicated, no one can understand it without a lawyer."

"The B.I.A. is going through these motions so they can go to Congress and say, 'We asked the villages for their opinions and here's what they think.'"

But two Fairbanks bankers and an attorney indicated this week that some sections of the bill may need revision before they can help Alaskans.

"It doesn't help that Alaskan natives don't have clear rights to their land," attorney Thomas Fenton, told the TUNDRA TIMES. "The bill provides for using reservation land as collateral. In Alaska, so much of the land

is worthless and no one has yet determined if it is the native's land to pledge in the first place."

Fenton feels the bill is designed more for lower 48 Indians who have holdings and land they can pledge. "Here the bill would be limited because of the limited collateral natives can put up for loans."

A trust officer at Alaska National Bank of Fairbanks said he now would be more likely to consider loans to remote villages with the government insurance and guarantee.

However Colonel Kenneth C. Haycraft said that he would still be reluctant to loan money to persons without steady work records or some material property to indicate that they would be good credit risks.

"You lose money, on a bad loan even with a government guarantee," he said. "You have to spend a year trying to collect before you can go to the government. The time and effort costs money."

Colonel Haycraft said the bill would not help everyone, but it could "be a good tool in the hands of good, young intelligent aggressive natives. Someone like John Sackett."

Judge Vernon D. Forbes, president of Mount McKinley Mutual Savings Bank agreed that he would consider loans to villagers more favorably with the government guarantee. But he would still want to have a qualified first hand appraisal of any property involved and of local conditions before he would grant the money. "The government probably would have to put an appraiser in the field for outlying villages," he said. It would be too costly and time consuming for bankers to visit villages themselves.

Judge Forbes also indicated that he might consider opening a branch bank to handle increased business at a place like Barrow, if the bill passed.

