

AFN Head Donald Wright Meets President...

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for April 17.

House Interior Committee hearings were scheduled last week for May 3, to be followed by a full week to be devoted to

"marking up" the final land claims bill to be submitted to the full Congress.

Despite fears that land claims would be held up in Congress by a lengthy SST debate, this did

not occur. As the Congressional session opened, Senator Jackson's main concern was passage of the SST appropriation, a vitally important measure to his aircraft industry dominated and unemployment plagued home state.

By last week, the SST question had been settled for this year, by a Congressional vote to withhold further funds for the project. Despite his lack of success in the debate, its resolution freed Senator Jackson to concentrate on other important matters in his committee - and native land claims heads the list.

Another feared roadblock - an anti-land group of conservative Congressmen to be centered around Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton, did not materialize.

Mr. Morton's recent pronouncements have shown major changes from those he made during his first weeks in office and the administration bill is a highly favorable one to Alaskan Natives.

The White House proposal, will give Alaskan Natives fee title to 40 million acres. In special instances, such as federal reserves, Natives may select land there but would not receive mineral rights.

In place of the mine rights on this particular selection, Natives would be allowed to select mineral rights to other lands provided the lands were within a specified distance of the village involved.

Under the bill's provisions, the Native village would become the dominant selection unit.

Terms of the bill provide four townships for each village, plus additional land the village needs within a range of 25 townships. Each village will own the lands and in most cases the sub-surface rights.

Aleuts...

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rights for 25 miles on either side of the village-designated hunting and fishing spots to five miles offshore and five miles inland.

"From the standpoint of the Aleuts, the claims bill should recognize our peoples' tremendous subsistence on the sea," Philemenof told the Aleut League at their meeting last week in Anchorage.

"The land is not that much of a question since we didn't have that much land," he said.

According to Les Miller, attorney for the League, the Aleuts will ask that Congress give some protection to the Aleuts mean of subsistence: the sea.

"To the extent that Congress can, without interfering with international and national law, protect the rights to the sea where the Aleuts derive their livelihood, we hope that some 'water rights' can be worked out in the claims settlement," Miller said.

The proposal for sea protection would apply only to existing villages or campsites, not to abandoned village areas, the attorney said.

The Aleut League is also concerned that what Philemenof called "an unfair provision" which requires establishment of proof of one quarter blood may harm his people's land claims position.

Philemenof was the only Alaskan Native who testified before the Senate Interior Committee at its recent hearings. Other Native groups decided to wait for announcement of the administration land claims bill provisions and then testify at later Senate Interior Committee hearings.

T-H and Brain Brain...

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kan, who recently graduated from San Francisco State College in finance and management while working as a systems analyst.

While the Tlingit-Haida Central Council met in Wrangell, their second EDA grant was announced - for \$54,965 to be used to help plan for economic growth in villages and cities of southeastern Alaska.

These funds will enable them to carry out the recommendations of last year's EDA funded study.

When the Tlingit-Haida Indians accepted a \$7 million award for their timber claims from the U.S. government it was with the provision that the money be used as "seed money" according to Borbridge. With it, the Central Council has attracted grants from the Ford Foundation, Economic Development Administration and other agen-

cies. Also it now administers several contracts for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, including operation of the Southeast Agency.

At its Wrangell meeting, the Central Council recommended unanimously that 1/4 million dollars be appropriated to aid the Alaska Federation of Natives in the land claims lobbying effort in Washington. With this money, the Tlingit-Haidas will pay the way for their people who participate in the AFN effort.

"Is it possible that some of the Tlingit-Haida money might be used to help the Alaska Federation of Natives?" asked Borbridge. "Yes," he answered. The Central Council executive committee is discussing ways to assist the AFN in other financial ways. At present the executive committee is reviewing their financial status and the Washington lobbying effort expenses.

Chilocco Program...

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Everybody admits the first day of the course was a disaster. They began with little explanation and heavy testing to find out the reading weaknesses of each student.

"I had 20 kids a period walking through my office saying 'I'm not going back to that class!'" Miss Spicer recalls. "Some of them were scared by the testing. Some just don't like to do things when they can't see a reason for it."

The educators explained the program was to help each student individually, teach them how to study more easily and help them wrestle with the differences between their own languages and English.

They produced high interest reading materials at low vocabulary levels. Offered reading and writing games, cross word puzzles and a good number of audio visual machines for youngsters use.

The school also offered prizes for reading improvement. Most of the students are from 2 to 2.8 years deficient in reading skills. Now if a student moves ahead a year in reading ability he is to win a transistor radio.

If there is two or three years improvement a camera is the prize. For a three to four year jump an unusual table radio is given. And there's a portable television set for the boy and girl who show the most improvement.

Today the program is one of the best attended in the school.

"The kids are finding some of the things we do are fun," Miss Spicer reports. "We're trying to get more high interest material, too, but there's not too much available relating to Indian culture."

Of the Alaskans interviewed in the class, three out of four liked the course and felt they were learning from it.

One is Joe Willie of Stebbins Village. He is a senior who, according to his teachers, is one of the top in his dry cleaning class.

He's doing well enough with reading to count on winning a transistor radio and-with a little luck-may capture the television set.

Also enthusiastic are senior

Jesse Chime Galrea of Napakiak and Marie Charles of Kasigluk, a junior. Jesse hopes his improved vocabulary will help him with flight training. Marie is working towards nurses training in Anchorage.

Agnes Rose Inakak of Tununak thinks the program is "really good for some things but not too good for others." She's decided, at the moment, she'd rather be in her regular English class but she's still paying attention.

Educators concede they have a lot to learn about the class. In fact 20 teachers in the school have volunteered for a course taught by Wichita State on helping students with reading problems.

Also in connection with the program, the school held a Human Relations Seminar to explore ways of closing the understanding gap between students and teachers. Fifty-four of the 57 member staff attended and are looking forward to a second session.

Daniel E. Sahmaunt, a Kiowa Indian who heads the school, hopes the program can be funded yearly.

"We've tried a number of reading programs that did well till the people involved with them left," he said. "This is a program we hope we can keep in regular operation."

As for Alaskan students at Chilocco, Sahmaunt and his staff claim they are among the best students in the school.

After the school made headlines in an investigation of student treatment, Alaskan enrollment dropped from 200 to 44.

Now Sahmaunt hopes the school can attract the youngsters back. (He has been at his job 2 years, the other director, I believe, was let go after the investigation).

"We have hopes of becoming a school that meets the needs of the students rather than developing programs and trying to fit the students into them," he said.

"We really like the Alaskan kids and we wish we had more of them. They seem to have a purpose for education. They see the need and they're willing to work towards improving themselves academically."

Barrow Power

The Navy Department has approved a \$2,439,548 contract with the Woerful Corporation of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the construction of an electric power plant and distribution system at the Naval Arctic Research Lab at Barrow, Alaska, according to Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska).

ASNA Sues...

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Herbert said the land, which includes the Prudhoe Bay oil fields, was selected under the Statehood Act in 1963 or 1964. The State selection won required Presidential endorsement and the Bureau of Land Management granted tentative approval. Herbert said.

Herbert said the Alaskan land freeze is holding up issuance of formal title to the state for the land, but said the state views tentative approval, under a State Attorney General's opinion, as giving the state "the right to buy and sell just as if the land were patented."

The Commissioner said it was the State's position that the native land claims of North Slope acreage had been filed after the State selected the land under the Statehood Act.

"If such a suit should be sustained and the oil companies evicted," he said, "then the oil companies would have good grounds for action against the state."

Attorney General John Have-lock declined to comment on the threatened lawsuit, but confirmed that the State regards tentative approval of its North Slope Land as equivalent to final approval.

According to Lester Suvlu, Mayor of Barrow and a member of the ASNA Board of Directors, Joe Upicksoun and Charlie Edwards have not spoken to the rest of the ASNA Board within the last few days. His first knowledge of the press conference came from a Tundra Times reporter asking for an opinion.

"I don't think I should make any comment," Suvlu said about the conference and the proposed suit.

Northern Education...

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nell, "the Center would hope to assume leadership in the long range coordinated educational planning now lacking in public education in Alaska. Thus, the Center would have the fundamental function of asking the central, but neglected questions on goals, control, and process and applying the best of scientific investigative methods in co-operation with a broad cross section of society in quest of answers."

Program associates, the working members of the Center, might come from University faculty or Institutes, or from such groups as the Alaska Federation of Natives, state and federal agencies, graduate students and visiting scholars.

The Center expects to devote at least one full year to pre-operational planning, beginning its work in the summer of 1972.

During this time, Dr. Darnell is contacting native groups, State School Boards and other groups and individuals concerned with Alaska's multicultural educational problems to give them the opportunity to influence the Center's scope and direction.

He hopes to invite these individuals and groups to the University at various times to discuss ongoing plans for the center.

Some funding will come from contracts now held by the University, such as the bilingual

language program, teacher corps and rural schools which will be incorporated into the Center.

Near the end of April, representatives of the Ford Foundation will be in Alaska to discuss Foundation funding with members of the University. The University is requesting a Ford Foundation grant of \$654,000 to support the central staffing and operational functions of the Center, to initiate early program development and to disseminate findings.

An important part of the Center's work will be to chart a direction to education in the North. In a state faced with the complex problems of emerging native people and a super-imposed economically dominant, culturally different group, the Center hopes to provide a planning focus - responsive to the needs of the native people.

Important questions on the values of assimilation, the learning styles of Alaskan Native children and what leads some of them to success in school and others to problems will all be pursued.

Interested individuals desiring more information about the center or with pertinent ideas should contact Dr. Frank Darnell, Department of Education, the University of Alaska College, Alaska.