

NEWS BRIEFS

NORTH SLOPE Borough Mayor, Eben Hopson, 53, the Eskimo Democratic contender for Alaska's only seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, is still in Seattle undergoing radiation treatments for throat cancer diagnosed before his Aug. 24th primary victory. He is counting on a clean bill of health from his physician around October 1st and says he will immediately return to Alaska to campaign. Hopson and campaign workers, Roger Lewis and John Buckholdt have already started to work, but estimate they only have \$1,500 at present. Counting on 100 per cent support from all groups in addition to Native Alaskans, Hopson admits it's an uphill fight against incumbent Don Young. Stating, "The politics of Alaska are no longer the politics of Alaskans, but are now the politics of oil," Hopson also says he'll be fighting both the cancer and to carry out an effective campaign.

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL Inuit Conference scheduled for early November in Barrow, may be postponed due to the illness and political activity of Eben Hopson, one of the prime movers behind the gathering. The conference, a dream of Hopson's for years, would have brought together circumpolar peoples from the U. S., Denmark, Russia and Canada.

THE TRANS-ALASKA line is supposedly 80 per cent complete. With a workforce of 20,240 craft and administrative personnel as of Aug. 29, the pump stations are 69 per cent complete, terminal work is 65 per cent complete and the pipeline portion, still scheduled to be finished by Nov. 1, is 90.2 per cent complete. The three primary computers which will be used in monitoring the line, have arrived in Valdez and by early September, 779.8 miles of mainline pipe had been welded, 310.5 miles of pipe have been hydrostatically tested, and 119 out of a total 175 mainline valves had been installed. Meanwhile, Alyeska is awaiting word on its request to the federal government to waive quality standards for 612 of those remaining problem welds.

IVAN PUNGOWIYI, A reindeer herder and trapper from Savoonga, says he is already training to win the 1978 Iditarod dog sled race from Anchorage to Nome. Pungowiyl, 43, will work his dogs, which are only puppies now, on his trapline. That will account for a workout of about 100 miles per day which Pungowiyl says will make them the best in the state. The Iditarod, run annually, is a 1,049 mile race.

THE INTERNATIONAL Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission is worried that the Canadians might catch more than the Americans this year. Because more Canadian fishing is scheduled in September and October, the commission is permitting only shortened open periods. As of Sept 3, Canada's catch was 1.29 million sockeye and the U.S. catch was 1.31 million.

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT councils established under the new 200-mile fishing limit law would get funds for high priority rebuilding programs under legislation cosponsored by Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska. The councils were created to advise the government on fishery conservation practices and would have the last word on how the loans, grants, and loan guarantees, would be used. Money will come from tariffs collected on imported fish products plus fines from violations of the 200-mile limit law. That law goes into effect next March 1, and although no action can be taken on the proposed bill this session, early hearings on the revitalization program are promised for next spring.

A RECENT REORGANIZATION in the State Division of Lands came about because the acreage administered by the department has more than doubled in the last 18 months. The restructuring entails decentralization of land management authority to the districts, centralization of administrative functions, and strengthening of land selection and protection, which Director Mike Smith says has not been handled well since passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

SENATOR MIKE GRAVEL has expressed optimism that the massive package of Alaska power project bills before Congress, will be approved before this year's recess. Last week, the Senate Public Works Subcommittee on Water Resources approved legislation to authorize the first phase of engineering and design for the Upper Susitna power project and six other measures for navigation, power, and harbor projects in Alaska. Gravel feels that the Upper Sustina project will be the national prototype for hydropower facilities and that it is just as important as the trans-Alaska pipeline due to energy needs in the state and the fact that it is entirely renewable and non-polluting.

IF YOU OPPOSE returning management of marine mammals to the state, you have until Sept. 30 to submit written comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Those who favor state control had only until Sept. 9th. A hearing on the matter has been re-scheduled for Oct. 19 in Washington, D. C. At issue is whether to waive the existing imparatorium on the killing or capture of polar bear, sea otter, ringed seal, bearded seal, harbor seal, beluga whale, northern seal lion, ribbon seal and largha seal. Natives, at a heated hearing held in Bethel earlier this summer, felt return to state control would mean the end of their "exemption" status and would severely effect subsistence hunting.

SAN POINT LIES 60 miles southwest of Mt. Pavlof, a 2,110 foot volcano on the Alaska Peninsula. Last week, the volcano erupted, raining a light coat of ash over the village. The Palmer Observatory reported that the volcano has been active for several months and that the recent eruption was not too significant.

A FIVE-YEAR WOLF population study has begun on the Kenai Peninsula Moose Range. The U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service will use the study to determine number and size of wolf packs, the amount of territory they use, the total wolf population, and to arrive at techniques for long-range population monitoring.

DURING SECRETARY OF Interior Kleppe's recent visit with Native leaders in Anchorage, the village of English Bay, directly threatened by proposed 1977 OCS leasing sales in lower Cook Inlet, got a chance to present their concerns. Attending the meeting as part of Chugach Natives, Inc., manager of the English Bay village corporation, Chris Lyou, said that in the five minutes they had with the Secretary, English Bay representatives "wanted to make it clear that there are people out there. They eat and they breathe and they die, and they live a life that is very unique and very wonderful." Lyou reported that Kleppe said he would take seriously the village's concern for its culture and subsistence economy.

EFFECTIVE MIDNIGHT, Sept. 10, an emergency closure on caribou hunting in Unit 13, lying on either side of the Denali Highway, was announced by Fish and Game. The desired harvest of 500 animals from the Nelchina heard had been reached earlier than anticipated.

DUE TO A \$1 MILLION expansion of a VHF-FM radio network, all boaters in the state will have better radio communications with the Coast Guard next year. As part of the program, the Coast Guard, by Jan. 1, will have installed eleven new mountain top antennae, six of which will be located in Southeast.

A NEW APOINTMENT TO the Alaska Board of Game is Charles D. Evans of Anchorage. Evans, who replaces Thomas Meacham, presently works at the Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center at the U. of A., Anchorage. Gov. Jay Hammond, in making the appointment, said that Evans' experience with land withdrawals will also come in handy when the board begins considering questions of recreational easements.

SECRETARY OF Interior,

Thomas Kleppe, concluded his five-day trip to Alaska with a stop at Prudhoe Bay and Barrow, a look at McKinley Park and a press conference in Anchorage. In Barrow, Kleppe watched Eskimo hunters slice blubber from a freshly caught 50-foot whale, danced Eskimo-style, ate a dinner of caribou steak

and was presented with a walrus oosik. He was astounded by the contrasts of Alaska, "Here we are a hundred miles from Prudhoe Bay, an example of American technology at its peak, on the beach watching men take their food from the sea like they've done for thousands of years."

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The State Board of Education will meet Sept. 27th at the Nenana Regional Office Board Room. Nulukuik Hotel, Kotzebue, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The Board will reconvene Sept. 28th in Nome at the Office of the Superintendent, Bering Straits School District, at the corner of First and Division, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD MEETING

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board will hold a public meeting in Kotzebue, Alaska on Wednesday, September 22, 1976, at 10 a.m. in the City Council Chambers on Third Street. Any person wishing to appear on Alcoholic beverage control matters will be heard by the Board.

Linda E. Brown
Director