

# Governor Miller Honors NCAI

Gov. Keith H. Miller has proclaimed the week of October 18-24, 1970 as American Indian Week throughout Alaska and calls upon all citizens "to reflect during this time on their Indian citizens in acknowledging their efforts to realize greater achieve-

ments in education, economic stability, and other pertinent necessities of life."

The Governor's proclamation was in honor of the National Congress of American Indians that will hold its next annual national convention in Anchor-

age, Alaska lasting for a week beginning on October 18.

Miller said that the NCAI is the only national Indian organization serving the majority of the Indian tribes in the United States; that it has attained its objectives in a peaceful and lawful manner for the Indian people.

He said that the organization has contributed much to the growth and well-being of the Indians of the nation.

"The National Congress of American Indians," Miller continued, "stands ready to help its people through concerted efforts in raising the health standards, providing better educational opportunities, serving as public relations, and otherwise providing accurate information to the American public."

"The NCAI has honored the City of Anchorage and the State of Alaska by holding its Annual Convention here..."

## Food Stamp Impact \$7 Million?

Projected Federal contributions to the Food Stamp Program indicate that Alaskans will receive more than seven million dollars under the recently modified Food Stamp Program is fiscal year 1971, Robert A. "Bert" Hall, Commissioner of Health and Welfare, announced today.

The new projected dollar amount is a result of President Nixon's efforts to upgrade the federal food program.

Total food stamp allotments for individual households were increased effective February 1, 1970. For example, a four person household that formerly paid \$50.00 for \$88.00 in food stamps, now pays \$20.00 for \$126.00 worth of stamps under the upgraded program.

Hall said that this makes food stamps the biggest Health and

Welfare program in Alaska and it makes Stan Harris, Director, Division of Public Welfare, and Don Kemp his Food Stamp Supervisor, two of the biggest salesmen in Alaska.

Hall said the new standards are more equitable and families now can have a better diet under the food stamp program.

It is projected that there will be 23 Federal dollars brought into the state of Alaska for each state tax dollar used in the food stamp program.

Alaska also has a lower administrative cost in providing stamps than the average South 48 states, despite the fact that salaries, travel and other administrative expenses here are higher per food stamp worker than in the lower states.

## Stevens Urges Support of Bill . . .

(Continued from page 1)

sion by the Senate-House compromise committee.

Alaska's Republican senator said that if he had been "a committee of one," he would have increased the land provisions.

However, he added, the feeling of the other committee members was that the natives should be left with a large capital base that can generate future income and stability rather than merely a large land base.

Another question raised by one of the delegates concerned the bill's creation of one statewide corporation rather than regional investment corporations.

If regional corporations were to be used, the Tlingit and Haida Council might well be affected.

Stevens replied that the cost of managing investments today required that the money be retained in a central, rather than regional corporation.

Some delegates also expressed concern that probably, initially, natives would be in a minority on the board of directors of the investment corporation. Four members are to be native, five appointed by the president, and three non-natives.

Others expressed concern over the phasing out of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Public Health Service in the bill.

According to the Senator, the bill merely sets up the procedure for the phasing out of the Bureau, and, if the procedure doesn't work, then it may be necessary to reconsider its elimination.

Several Tlingit and Haida people seemed to wonder how the needs now being met by the agencies would be met.

Stevens replied that he had been under the impression that the Natives wanted the elimination of the BIA and this was a major reason such had been included in the bill.

The purpose of the legislation, he continued, is to provide a basis for local determination and local support so that in a few years there will be nothing for the BIA to do. The continuation of the BIA and the PHS is merely preserving an economy that has produced rampant unemployment around the state, he said.

The proposal calls instead for a native-controlled service corporation to perform social services and a betterment function.

In a brief discussion between convention sessions, President John Borbridge said that it might be best for the Central Council to address itself to substantive

issues of the bill such as the land feature and the absence of the role of regional councils in the investment corporation.

These and other matters were discussed at the convention with Stevens and also with the attorney for the Indians, I.S. Weissbrodt, but the delegates took no stand on the bill.

In stressing the need to get a bill out of Congress this year, Borbridge said that if Congress does not settle the issue, but rather directs it to the courts, such would be a loss for everyone, not just the natives. But, if necessary, he added, "we will fight the matter in court."

In answering questions, the attorney for the Indians stressed that each group of natives must consider the interests of the whole, for if the different groups within the natives split, the issue will never be settled except through lengthy and costly litigation.

Concerning the bill to release the \$7.5 million dollars to the Tlingits and Haidas, Borbridge explained his reasons for supporting a release subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

In the past, Congressional bills releasing money to Indians have made the spending subject to secretarial approval.

So, to try for a bill that would allow the Tlingits and Haidas to spend their money as they please would require more time, he said.

And, the Indians need the money now for educational programs and for programs for the elderly.

After using some of the money for programs and after meeting emergency needs, then the council will return to Congress with its achievements and ask that secretarial approval be waived.

In other discussions, the delegates adopted several resolutions and expanded the staff of the Central Council office. Borbridge, as president, is to receive a salary and is to hire a manager, who will tend to daily affairs of the organization.

The Central Council was set up by Congress to develop plans relative to the disposition and use of the \$7 million.

The delegates also voted to raise the per diem pay for convention delegates from \$35 to \$55 retroactive to April 10, 1970 due to rising costs of meals and lodging.

## STEVENS VILLAGE TO CONTINUE SUIT . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Representatives on Friday, thus leading to the appointment of a three-member subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee to investigate the matter.

The subcommittee is headed by Representative Tom Fink, who said Monday night that he hoped to conclude the investigation by the end of the week.

The case in question here was filed by Alaska Legal Services in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., on behalf of Stevens Village, Rampart, Bettles, Allakaket, and Minto.

In the suit against the Secretary of the Interior, the villages sought an injunction barring the secretary from issuing construction permits for the TAPS haul road and pipeline across land claimed by them. A preliminary

## Employment . . .

(Continued from page 1)

stand that designation of racial information is undesirable since it enables the interviewing staff to possibly discriminate in the job selection process.

However, opponents of the State's stand have argued that, if racial information is not collected, it is impossible for Federal of State Civil Rights enforcement officers to determine if anyone is discriminating.

As explained by Merdes in a letter to the Tundra Times, the practice also makes it impossible for research persons and organizations to obtain statistical data.

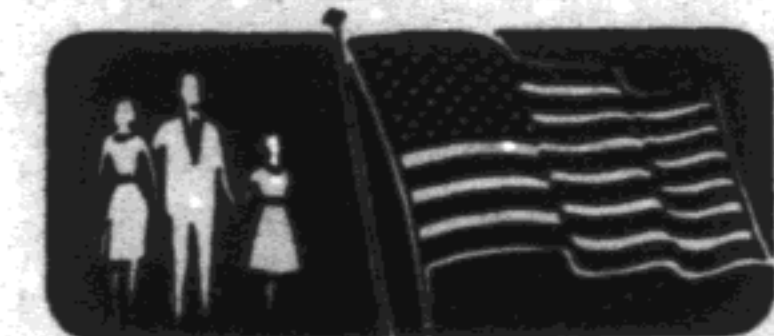
Under Merde's bill, records will be confidential and available only to federal and state personnel legally charged with administering civil rights laws and regulations. However, statistical information compiled from records on age, sex, and race shall be made available to the general public.

According to James Sullivan, Statistical Programs Specialist with the Social Economic and Government Research Institute of the University of Alaska, the present statute, as interpreted, makes impossible any realistic evaluation of efforts to solve unemployment problems among Alaska's ethnic minorities.

Researchers and planners, he wrote in a letter to Sen. Merdes, need to know the rates of unemployment in Native villages and need job placement data by race.

Both the Alaska Federation of Natives and the Alaska NAACP have endorsed Merdes' bill.

Dreams come true with



U.S. SAVINGS BONDS



**\$4,000 PROJECT**—Tenth graders at the Unalakleet Bureau of Indian Affairs school can be mighty proud of what they have done—raising \$4,000 so the class trip can be made to Washington, D.C. on April 24, this Friday. The students raised the money during the past school year. The possible reward for their commendable effort is meeting President Richard Nixon which would be a real highlight for the trip. Making the trip, from left to right, seated, are: Martha Anagick, Carol Lockwood, JoAnne Katchatag, Mrs. Donna Grubbs and Ramona Eben. Back row: James Kotongan, Joan Anagick, Hazel Sagoonick, Reggie Lockwood, and school principal, Bill Grubbs.

injunction was issued across the land claimed by Stevens Village.

Young, who represents Stevens Village, said Monday night he did not believe the people knew what they were doing. He contended that they were misled and sold on the idea by smooth talking lawyers and had never given Alaska Legal Services permission to seek an injunction.

After the presentation by Young, questions were directed to the Alaska Legal Services representative who then produced the April 18 resolution that said the villages wanted to continue the suit.

When asked how he resolved the conflicts, Hedland said he was of the opinion that the people of Stevens Village had been pressured into saying they wanted the case taken out of court.

The affidavit presented by Young had been obtained by a member of the State Attorney General Staff.

The Alaska Legal Services law-

yer continued that the staff member made the villages believe they would not receive certain state programs if they did not withdraw their suit.

Both Hedland and Wolf emphasized that it was not the intent of the villages and Alaska Legal Services to stop the pipeline. The purpose was to obtain for the natives some of the benefits of the pipeline—namely construction jobs—since land is being taken from them for it.

Alaska Legal Services is a non-profit corporation designed to assist the poor on legal matters. Both Hedland and Wolf asserted Monday night they had received no fees from the Interior Villages for the suits brought in their behalf.

Based upon the meeting Monday night and further investigation, the committee is to determine whether the people of Stevens Village were misled by the Alaska Legal Services attorneys.

## To Ask More Land . . .

(Continued from page 1)

felt that for subsistence reasons, it needed more than the maximum acreage allowed under the bill. Several other reasons were also mentioned in this connection.

Concerning the elimination of the BIA and the PHS the bill, according to Sen. Ted Stevens in a Saturday speech, does not eliminate the two but merely sets up the procedure whereby they can be eliminated when no longer needed.

The bill is designed to have their functions eventually assumed by a Native-run service corporation.

Several natives have expressed the belief that the elimination of

the BIA should be totally separate from the land claims bill, which is to compensate natives for lands taken from them.

"To include the two in the same bill, we can see an impact of the compensation," according to the natives.

In the words of one native spokesman, "Congress could either terminate the BIA and increase the present terms of the settlement or maintain the BIA in the present level of the bill." "The AFN thinks the latter course would be easier to get through Congress," he added.

Speaking after the meeting John Borbridge, first vice-president of the AFN, explained that when the natives have in the past criticized the BIA, they have been saying that they don't want that particular control over their affairs, not that they don't want the services.

Clark, in addressing the group, stressed that the real need is to get the bill through in this session of Congress. At the coming out of the Senate Interior Committee, the bill still has to go before the full Senate and through appropriate channels in the house.

Clark also stressed the importance of the Senate bill itself and said that it would probably represent the high-water mark in the Native effort.

"More land, more money, and more royalty," he said, "are things that cannot be obtained in the House."

Fifteen members and five proxys of the 25 member board were present at the meeting in the Juneau ANB Hall.

## Letters to Editor

(Continued from page 2)

and across Stevens Village. I don't think there is anyone that can stop me. That way I can say something about our land.

Why don't they give us that \$500 million cash, and that 2 per cent royalty, and 40 million acres, that's not coming out of their pockets. They know that belongs to us, then they can go ahead from there.

How does the Governor think he's going to go ahead with the TAPS without giving us what he wants. Being an Indian I got more to say than the Governor. I lived on this earth for 63 years the other day. And the young fellows are all walking over us old people.

I might have to run for Governor yet.

—FRED STICKMAN, SR.