



NATIVE EMPLOYMENT DROPS



SECRETARY DESIGNATE—Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior-designate, right, is conferring with Alaska Democrat Sen. Mike Gravel in the latter's senatorial office in the nation's capitol. Sen. Gravel said he was greatly

heartened by Morton who showed obvious appreciation of the importance of two of Alaska's projects, the Alaska native land claims and the construction of the oil pipeline.

Despite Much Rhetoric Unemployment Grows

By MADELYN SHULMAN
Staff Writer

While Alaska's State and local governments suffer increasing shortages of trained professional and para professional personnel, the unemployment of Alaska's Native peoples has risen both percentage wise and by absolute numbers.

Begich in House Interior Comm.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Nick Begich (D-Alaska) was appointed last week to the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee and the House Public Works Committee.

The freshman Congressman had requested these two assignments due to their importance to Alaska. Mr. Begich drew the first position on each Committee, an important seniority position among new members.

The Interior and Insular Affairs Committee will consider the Native Land Claims and the oil pipeline issues in Alaska, the "two most important issues facing Alaska," according to Mr. Begich.

"Because Alaska is directly affected by these issues, I should be in a position where I will be of most help to the state," Begich said.

The announcements of committee assignments last week by the House Ways and Means Committee culminate a month-long campaign by Mr. Begich to secure these positions.

These two seemingly unrelated statistical facts are tied together in a new study, Manpower Needs in Alaska, published last week by the Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research of the University of Alaska.

"Despite rhetoric and programs designed to increase Alaska Native hire, it is possible that unemployment among Alaska Natives has actually risen over the last few years." From March 1966 to March 1969 the study estimates as much as a 10 per cent rise in Native unemployment.

"This increase in unemployment is due not only to the swelling of the available labor force by young workers. More shocking, it also appears to be due to a decline in the total number of Alaska Natives who are employed."

Drs. Judith Kleinfeld and Thomas Morehouse outlined hazardous state hiring policies for minority groups which often frustrate applicants through bureaucratic processes. Also, inflated job qualifications weed out applicants able to do the job.

One solution to Native unemployment may be, say Morehouse and Kleinfeld, to train (Continued on page 6)

Secretary-Designate Morton Reveals Claims Interest

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Secretary of Interior-designate Rogers C.B. Morton has met with Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) to

discuss the outlook for passage of the pending Alaska Native Land Claims Bill in the current session of Congress, as well as

the prospects for the start of construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

Following the meeting, which took place in Senator Gravel's office, the Senator said he was "greatly heartened by Mr. Morton's obvious appreciation of (Continued on page 6)

Purpose of Educating Native Children Fails

"What does education mean?" asked an Eskimo woman from the village of Nunapitchuk on the Kuskokwim. Margaret Nick framed the dilemma for Senator Edward Kennedy and his subcommittee hearings on Native education in Fairbanks in March of 1969.

"I can't predict how my children should be educated," she said. Just as her grandparents didn't know what faced their children.

"But one thing I know is, if my children are proud, if my children have identity, if my children know who they are, they'll be able to encounter anything in life. I think this is what education means."

If the purpose of education is to fit Eskimos or Indians into the mainstream of American life, it has failed. This is a conclusion reached by John Collier, one of the researchers who examined Indian and Eskimo education in Alaska as part of a National Study of Indian Education.

In essence, this is the conclusion of the entire study, conducted in 39 schools across the

United States. Indian children show normal or above normal intelligence, yet perform consistently below average in American society.

The fact that studies of this (Continued on page 6)

Veteran Arctic Pioneer Passes

Oliver D. Morris—trapper, fur trader and skipper of the "Ya-Butt"—died December 5, 1970 at the Tripler Army Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii.

His son, Oliver D. Morris, Jr. brought his parents to join his family in Hawaii after his father was hospitalized in October, 1970. He wrote the following obituary:

"During his hospitalization in Fairbanks, Dad was visited by some old Eskimo friends from Pt. Barrow, Herbert and Marylou Leavitt, Bertha Leavitt and Loretta Kenton. Dad spoke more and more during the last month of his life about his years in the Arctic and his love (Continued on page 6)

Agnew Assures Indian Leaders—

Consultation on BIA Status

Members of the National Council on Indian Opportunity and other Indian leaders will be consulted before any change is made in the position of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the federal government.

This is the message received by Mrs. Laura Bergt, member

of the NCIO, from Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.

"In the President's State of the Union Message he outlined reorganization of the Federal Government," Agnew said in a telegram Mrs. Bergt received Tuesday. "I wish to advise you that no decision has been made

as to where the BIA will be relocated in this reorganization.

"This decision will be made after consultation with the Indian leaders throughout the country. I shall look to you and other Indian members of the Council to assist us in determining the issue."

The NCIO, composed of eight Indian members and eight members of the President's cabinet, will meet in Washington later in February. Vice President Agnew will chair the meeting.

Since last summer, the Council has emphasized holding nationwide hearings on the President's July, 1970 message on Indian Affairs and on subsequent proposed legislation. The last hearing was held in Spokane, Washington in January.

Two hearings were held in Alaska last fall, one in Anchorage and the other in Fairbanks.

NCIO members have traveled to each of the regional hearings, in order to become acquainted with Indian problems in areas other than their own.

Have Coffee at Any House—

Anaktuvuk Thanks Interior Airways

By JACK MORRY
Anaktuvuk Pass

The people of Anaktuvuk Pass would like to thank the Interior Airways and the group at Sagwon for bringing some fuel oil to Anaktuvuk. Just when we needed the oil badly, they brought some fuel oil for the people.

The people are hauling in woods to their homes now due

to lack of fuel oil. But that doesn't stop the people from smiling even when the weather here is -40 or so.

Again much obliged to the Interior Airways and the nice group of men at Sagwon.

If you do stop by at the Pass, feel free to ask for nice hot coffee. The coffee is on the table at any house.

Thanx!