

ANS Camp 36 of Seattle Gives Support to Native Land Claims

Alaskan residents are not the only ones writing U.S. Congressmen in support of the natives in the land claims issue.

The Alaska Native Sisterhood, Camp 36 of Seattle, Wash. has also sent letters to Washington directing its remarks to Sen. Henry M. Jackson and Rep. Lloyd Meeds, both of Washington state.

Jackson is also chairman of the Senate Interior Committee, which is now considering several proposals on the land claims issue.

The Alaska Native Sisterhood is an auxiliary of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, an organization

Alvin Bramstedt To Handle Gov. Miller's Race

Radio and television executive Alvin O. Bramstedt will have the gubernatorial campaign of Gov. Keith Miller according to an announcement made this week.

Bramstedt stated he did not think the fight would be easy but that, as an incumbent, the governor would have an advantage.

Bramstedt, 52, lives in Anchorage and is the president and general manager of Broadcasters, Inc., owner of KENI Radio and Television in Anchorage, KFAR Radio and Television in Fairbanks, KINY Radio and Television in Juneau and KTKN Radio in Ketchikan.

of natives living primarily in southeastern Alaska.

In the letter sent to Jackson and Meeds, the Sisterhood wrote, "We wish to convey to you our desire that the settlement that the Alaska Federation of Natives is asking is the closest to a fair and equitable settlement considering that by right the native people own all of Alaska."

Many opponents of the natives' position have claimed that the United States should not have to pay for Alaska twice, the organization said.

However, the Russians never colonized interior Alaska, but rather settled only in a few coastal regions.

Thus their holdings were only a small portion of the total territory of Alaska and, consequently, so was the actual purchase of the United States the organization said.

And, at any rate, the statement continued, should not a claim of the people who inhabit and harvest the land take precedent over the claim some distant government made?

Sen. Stevens Urges . . .

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received many complaints from people who opposed the support he had given the natives.

"I don't believe," he said, "that you should make a decision on the basis of how many votes you can get for taking a certain stand."

Drawing laughter from the 50 or more Chamber members, Stevens added, "I got there (the Senate) by an act of God and it will probably take an act of God to keep me there."

The Anchorage attorney was twice an unsuccessful candidate for the seat before being appointed to the post following the death of E.L. Bartlett in Dec. of 1968.

Concerning his specific stand on the native land claims issue, Stevens explained that he and Sen. Mike Gravel have dropped their compromise stand at the request of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

The senators' proposal had called for a \$500 cash settlement, \$500 million more derived from a 2 per cent royalty on state and federal oil lands, and legal title to 10 to 12 million acres with surface rights to about 35 million acres.

The AFN's position calls for legal title to 40 million acres rather than 10 to 12 million leading the organization to make its request.

When questioned on the stand that he is now taking, Stevens explained that the proposals from various parties have been rejected as units and that the different sections of the various positions have all been thrown into the hat and will be considered individually as the committee seeks to come to some agreement.

Noting that the work of the committee could not be revealed to the public at this time, the senator added that the group hopes to present a proposal by the end of the month for senate action.

Stevens expressed regrets that the AFN had not approved the compromise, because he said he thought the proposal might have

had a chance. "Gravel and I tried to work out some way to preserve the land use where that use was first and necessary to maintain a subsistence economy," the senator said.

Raising his voice slightly in emphasis, he said that the cash compensation is not excessive for the lands in question.

"The \$500 million is probably one of the lowest settlements that has been made," he stressed, "and I get disturbed at Alaskans who will not look at the equity of the situation."

During his speech, he also explained that, to his knowledge, none of the records from the Fairbanks Land Office would be moved to Anchorage as had been reported.

The only changes taking place involved sending two adjudicators and one draftsman from the Fairbanks to the Anchorage office.

Josephson . . .

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\$500 million cash settlement, \$500 million more derived from a 2 per cent royalty on state and federal oil lands, and legal title to 10 to 12 million acres with surface rights to about 35 million acres.

According to Stevens, he abandoned this position recently after requested to do so by the Alaska Federation of Natives. The AFN wanted legal title to 40 million acres rather than 10 or 12.

Josephson has supported the AFN on the land claims issue.

Their proposal will put land back into the state, the attorney from Anchorage said, and should be viewed as an investment in Alaska.

Currently serving as a State Senator, Josephson said he plans to challenge not only the record of his Republican opponent, but also the record of the Nixon administration.

The five-year veteran of the Alaska State Legislature explained that he was starting his campaign early in an effort to generate groups of supporters throughout the state.

He mentioned plans to conduct a poll of "how Alaskans feel on a lot of issues."

"I don't know yet," he said, "whether it will be carried to the villages or not."

One issue discussed briefly was that of the high unemployment rate of Alaskans.

The number of unemployed people in the state, he said, remains constant even though more jobs are created by new industries, because the jobs are created for outsiders.

"I do not like the quota system, but am beginning to think that this might be the only way of doing it."

Possibly the developer could be required to hire a certain number of local people, he added.

A former aide to the late E.L. Bartlett in 1959 and 1960, Josephson is taking steps to secure financial support from Democrats outside Alaska.

Tom McCoy of Washington, who worked with the presidential campaign of Eugene McCarthy, was in Fairbanks with Josephson explaining that he hoped to find financial and professional assistance for the candidate.

To maintain control of the Senate, Josephson said, Democrats must win seats like this one in Alaska.

Compared to the efforts in other states, this campaign will not require great expenditures of money but, if successful, will yield the same strength as any seat in the Senate. Thus, it is a good investment for the Democratic party, McCoy said.

Waivers . . .

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The State representative from Kotzebue said that he presently hated to see Alaska repeat the mistakes of industrialization and pollution made by other states.

"I kind of feel that the pipeline is an initial step in the beginning of the deterioration of the wilderness," he concluded.

Modification . . .

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"1. The granting of rights-of-way under the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920 for an oil pipeline system including, but not limited to, pumping plant sites, access facilities, terminal facilities, catch basins, and any other structures reasonably necessary or convenient for transportation of oil by pipeline from fields in Northern Alaska to deep water port in the Gulf of Alaska.

"2. The issuance of any other permit or right-of-way as may be reasonably necessary or convenient for the construction, maintenance, or operation of the oil pipeline system described in paragraph one above.

"3. The sale of forest products and mineral materials as may be reasonably necessary or convenient for the construction, operation, or maintenance of the oil pipeline system described in paragraph one above."

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

instinct to kill can be noticed the minute he does not have his way. He is a coward when cornered. One day I caught one in a trap and as I approached him, he died. I could not believe myself that such a killer would die.

I have caught a number of wolves by trapping and shooting and each time make a remark I have learned from my full Eskimo uncle, "Be thankful many game spared."

Very truly yours,
Thomas P. Brower

What Saith the Scriptures?

"No voice from heaven, no vision, no authority can be compared with the volume of the book which Christ came to fulfill by His death and resurrection.

If we could have heard the counsel of eternity, the word of the Father to the Son, ere time began, we could have no greater certainty that now, when we listen to Scripture, the echo in time of the counsel in eternity.

God Himself is here speaking the word proceedeth out of His mouth." The word of the gospel is preached unto us. "He that hath the son hath life. (Eternal). He that hath not the Son hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know ye have eternal life." 1 John 5:12-13.

Hear me at 7:30 p.m. Saturdays KJNP, North Pole, Alaska, L.T. Crook, Fox, Alaska 99701.

New Year's Eve Was Sobering To Many Nome Snowmobilers

New Year's Eve was probably a time of celebration for most, but for snowmobile owners in Nome the 12 o'clock hour on that night imposed an unwanted restriction upon their lives.

On January 1 at 12:01 a.m. a state regulation went into effect banning the operation of a snow vehicle on two streets considered to be principal arteries for travel by the villagers.

These two streets come under the new regulation as part of the state highway system.

While police officers have been instructed to enforce the ban, the city manager, Edwin H. Glotfelty, has written Gov. Keith Miller stating his disapproval of the law.

In the letter, dated Dec. 31, 1969, he expressed a hope that the regulation could be reviewed and the snowmobilers of Nome exempted from it so that they might use the highways during the winter months.

"It is known that Nome is an isolated community," Glotfelty wrote, "and that the use of snow machines in this particular community is a way of life, sometimes the only means of transportation a family has during the winter for shopping and commuting back and forth to places of employment.

"The vast majority of snow machines that are operated in the vicinity of Nome replace the dog teams that do have access to State Highways."

According to the registration figures of the Department of Revenue in Anchorage, Nome has about 270 snow machines, nearly half as many as the number of motor vehicles registered in the city.

The city manager expressed the feeling that no consideration had been made for areas outside of Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks, and, hence, an "unneeded hardship" had been imposed on the citizens of Nome.

The two highways involved are Front Street and Bering Avenue, both part of the state highway system.

Now a city ordinance on snow machine use must be changed to comply with the new law. The city council is scheduled to act on the issue at its next meeting January 12.

Under the regulation banning the use of snow machines on state-operated roads, machines may be used on the right of way of state highways but not closer than six feet from the edge of the road. Persons may drive their machines across a state highway legally, but a full stop is required first.

Also, a person must be at least 14 years old to operate a snow machine. All such vehicles are now required to be equipped with a head light, tail light and a rear reflector and to obey speed and other traffic regulations.

Sassara Seeks State Office . . .

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be carried back to the governor.

However, as a liaison, he added that he would also explain the government's position to the people thus providing a two-way communication link.

A forceful speaker, Sassara stressed, "People in Alaska are unique. They are doers and want to be involved in state government."

But, he said, the last few years the state government has shut them out and has done whatever it thinks right, regardless of what the people think.

At the present, the charter-boat operator has no opposition, but, when it comes, he expects it to be "stiff."

Asked about his chances throughout the state, he seemed to feel that he could be elected in Anchorage without great expenditures in the area. He also felt that his support in Fairbanks would be fairly strong.

However, in his estimation, the key to election would rest not in the state's two largest cities, but with the natives.

"I think that they will be voting and will be selective. I want their support."

When asked about the danger of a backlash from those who oppose the native position, Sassara made it quite clear that he thought the support of the Alaska Federation of Natives would be worth any risk of a backlash.

If such were to happen, he explained, "I would merely take the issue to the people."

The state representative has made no bones about his support

for a generous land claims settlement for the natives.

He has in the past urged all Alaskans to push for such a settlement and has said that the state government should be giving the natives its full support.

"My record in supporting the natives, has been as good as anyone's," he stressed.

And, he seemed to feel that, as a result of his record and philosophy, his support in the bush area would be strong.

A pilot and owner of an airplane, Sassara noted that he has, in the past, been able to do a lot of traveling out to the villages.

Since he plans to do even more in the coming months, whether commercially or privately, he said he found it necessary to start his campaign early.

In Anchorage and Fairbanks, a candidate can depend somewhat on television and radio to reach the people, but in the bush, personal contacts are primarily the only means of contacting the voters, he noted.

"It is hard to say this early what the issues will be," the candidate said.

However, he mentioned that the problems of education in the native villages will be one topic of discussion for him.

Other issues to be raised by him will be the need for a better ferry system in southeastern Alaska and problems encountered by native fishing co-ops.

Mayor of Fairbanks "Red" Boucher has been named as a possible opponent of Sassara in the August primary.