

Nick Begich Sworn in as Congressman

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At noon Thursday Nick Begich was sworn in as a member of the 92nd Congress. Mr. Begich is the 3rd person in Alaskan history to serve as a voting member of the United States House of Representatives.

The Congressman was one of 48 newly elected members to be sworn into office. Speaker of the House Carl Albert administered the oath of office to all the members.

The ceremony was the culmination of various meetings and caucuses that continued until 1 hour prior to the swearing in.

Beginning Jan. 18, the Democrats had met every day in an effort to select the Speaker of the House, House Majority Leader and decide on the rules for the organization of the House.

Congressman Begich attended those meetings which started early in the day and ended long into the night.

Congressman Begich was in the morning Democratic caucus until just before the swearing in ceremony.

His parents, Mr. & Mrs. John Begich of Eveleth, Minnesota, were in the House Gallery observing the swearing in ceremony. The Congressman's wife, Peggie, and all six children also attended the ceremony.



BEGICH SWORN IN—On January 21, Nick Begich formally became Congressman Nick Begich when Speaker of the House Carl Albert, right, swore him in. Congressman Begich is the third person in Alaskan history to serve as a voting member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Five of the 6 children were permitted to observe the swearing in from the Floor of the House of Representatives.

After the swearing in, the Congressman and his family attended several receptions in

honor of the inauguration of the new Congress.

That night, Congressman Begich went to a reception given for the new Speaker of the House, Mr. Carl Albert, by the Oklahoma delegation.

Ace Band Barrow Training Exercise Of Army Reserves, Eskimo Scouts

ACE BAND BARROW, a joint Arctic training exercise involving active and Reserve Army Forces in Alaska ended last week as the participating units returned to their posts and villages.

The exercise, held at Point Barrow over the last seven days involved three of the United States Army Alaska's most elite units.

Participating from Fort Wainwright was C Company, 6th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 171st Infantry Brigade, the only airborne unit North of the Alaskan Range, O Company of the 75th Infantry, known as the Arctic Rangers from Fort Richardson and Eskimo Scouts from Company D, 1st Scout Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaskan National Guard.

"Exercises of this type are held so that both organizations can benefit from each other's experiences in Arctic conditions," said Colonel Ardie McClure, 171st Brigade Commander.

"Despite the severe weather conditions (temperature dropping to minus 75 with the wind-chill) the professionalism displayed by the soldiers was truly outstanding."

Besides learning from each other about Arctic operations, this exercise was intended to assist the Scouts in preparing for their annual two-week active duty training which is scheduled for March.

"The main bulk of the problem was spent in small unit

tactics," according to Major Joseph Hacia, Brigade Operations Officer. "All three of the participating units are trained extensively in locating an aggressor and if necessary eliminating him."

Getting to and from Point Barrow for the exercise involved nearly every means of transportation available in Alaska.

The Scouts, who normally operate in small teams from scattered villages, used everything from dog sleds to airplanes to

participate in the exercise.

C and O Companies were ferried to Barrow and back by C130 aircraft from the 17th Tactical Airlift Squadron stationed at Elmendorf AFB.

Similar exercises of this type have been held in the past with the most recent one being last November in Nome.

This exercise also involved the 171st and the 1st Scout Battalion commanded by Major John Schaffer, Jr., a native of Kotzebue.

Project Under Fire...

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As a result of the hearing it is likely there will be further legislative investigation of bush housing projects.

Another reason given for Bethel residents' fear to move into the housing project was fire danger. They complained one group of five houses was too close together in case of fire.

"I'd like to have that \$16,000 to build a house," Representative Martin Moore (D-Emmonak) told the committee. "I'd have a nice house."

He suggested the legislature investigate the possibility of rural housing loans for people in the bush.

ASHA director Schenker told the hearing the Bethel project was a "multi-agency project" involving the Federal Department of Housing, PHS, HUD, and

ASHA.

He maintained that the Bethel project was totally funded by HUD and was to a large degree not under ASHA control.

Placement of the houses, maintained ASHA board member Robert Penney of Anchorage was decided by HUD. The PHS devised the complicated and apparently inoperable sewer system.

Despite the problems which may cost up to another million dollars to repair, ASHA head John Schenker maintained the Bethel project was not a total loss.

"Bethel Heights was not a total failure," he told the committee. "It provided 200 houses over there that tremendously upgraded Bethel living standards."

Willard... Supportive Services...

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The meetings between AFN and labor union leaders came about as the result of a union picket of a project being completed by North Gulf Natives, Inc. in Valdez.

As a result of the conflict, AFN and labor union leaders decided to confer on differences between unions, Natives and Native corporations in order to develop mutual policy guidelines for the future.

leet, and Fairbanks.

Alaskans on the Potomac emphatically point out that they want to provide basic supportive services, and while they may wish to provide other means of support, the organization will remain within the guidelines established by policy decisions of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

The group held a reception Sunday for newly-elected Alaska

Representative Nick Begich at the Washington offices of the Arctic Institute of North America.

Alaskans on the Potomac indicate they will be prepared to provide a wide variety of services to Alaska Native leaders when they arrive in Washington to lobby for a fair and generous settlement of the Alaska Native land claims.

Bipartisan Effort—

Gravel and Stevens Introduce 13 Bills

Senators Ted Stevens and Mike Gravel jointly introduced 13 legislative proposals relating to the State of Alaska.

The 13 bills ranged in topic from conveyances of land to the cities of Nome and Anchorage, to the Hillcrest Home for boys in Fairbanks, the designation of the Erskine house in Kodiak, the establishment of a national cemetery at Fort Richardson, and the establishment of a standard metropolitan statistical area in Alaska.

Additionally, the Alaska legislators introduced several relief bills which would provide help for certain Alaskans who were unable to secure the relief they sought through normal federal

channels.

The two Alaskan Senators also jointly introduced legislation which would make available to state agencies surplus federal property before that property is shipped abroad.

In a joint statement, Senators Gravel and Stevens said, "Several of these bills have been pending before Congress for a substantial period of time. We felt that the best way to secure action on these bills was to work together in a bipartisan effort and to show our colleagues that we are serious in uniting to meet the needs of our state."

Copies of the bills are available upon request.

Claims Money Quotas...

(Continued from page 1)

in the newspapers. Win or lose, we haven't any inclination of giving less than our full support to the AFN."

Edwardsen, along with other board members who believed the difference was irreconcilable, advocated that both majority and minority views on the money distribution should be documented and presented to Congress with any AFN position statement.

"The Arctic Slope will be in Washington," he told the board. "You know what our position is and we can't change it. We'll also be in Washington to lobby on what we think."

In October of last year, the ASNA withdrew from the AFN over the distribution issue. The compromise in December brought them back into the Federation, but alienated many regional representatives with large populations and less land who felt their people would be short-changed.

On Friday, the AFN executive board had met in closed session with its Washington counsel, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

During that day, the Board discussed the make-up of the new Congress and possible changes in congressional attitudes toward the Native land claims among other topics.

Rep. Nick Begich (D-Alaska) participated in the discussion by means of a 3:00 p.m. conference call from Washington to the meeting.

Clark may represent the AFN at Interior Department hearings on the environmental impact of an oil pipeline right of way in Washington next month.

AFN attorney Edward Weinberg and several board members saw the split over money distribution as a threat to the AFN image held by sympathetic Congressmen.

"A member of Congress who wants to help Alaskan Natives will have no way of arriving at a judgement of which faction has a more meritorious position," Weinberg told the board. "Friends in Congress may see value in considering the value of lands and the needs of the people in land distribution."

At the December board meeting, which was the first discussion of distribution in over two years, various compromises between land loss and per capita money distribution were proposed and defeated. This left most members of the board to believe true compromise was impossible.

As part of its documentation

of various points of view, the board voted to ask each region to submit a detailed statement of its views and needs before their February board meeting.

Such statements have already been submitted by the ASNA and the Association of Village Council Presidents in the Yukon-Kuskokwim area.

The board also considered the problems of native claims to tidelands, fishing rights and off shore areas, none of which has been included in previous land claims proposals.

They then retreated to executive session to discuss the implications of an oil pipeline or road right of way to any land claims bill.

It was reported to the Tundra Times by a board member that the AFN agreed to basically support the ASNA protest to the Bureau of Land Management against any road right of way being granted to the State of Alaska.

This protest was filed two weeks ago against an application by State Attorney General John Havelock.

AFN Board vote on a resolution by Tony Lewis to distribute \$404 million on a per capita basis. Seconded by John Borbridge.

YES:

Phillip Guy
Nels Anderson
Charles Franz
Ray Christiansen (2 votes)
George Miller
Carl Moses
Ed Naughton
Emil Notti
Ray Roberts
George Walters
Larry Eskolkok
Charles Samuelson
Don Watson
Robert Willard

NO:

Tim Wallis
Frances Degnan
Frank Degnan
Edward Hopson
Al Ketzler
Ralph Perdue

DID NOT VOTE:

Brant
Cecil Barnes
Fred Bismark
Roy Ewan
Willie Hensley
Ernest Homeberg
Byron Mallott
George Andola
Chuck Degnan
Donald Wright