

Sen. Gravel Objects to 'Flexible' on Interior Gas Lease Policy Change

Strong objection to the Department of Interior policy change for noncompetitive oil and gas leases has come from Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska). In a letter to Secretary Walter

J. Hickel, which was released today by Senator Gravel's Washington office, Senator Gravel opposed Interior policy change which would allow the Interior Department to make "flexible" charges for noncompetitive oil and gas leases.

"The word 'flexible' is, indeed too flexible itself," Senator Gravel said. "Does it mean that the Interior can determine that in a geological formation a noncompetitive lease shall be let for \$1 per acre per year, or \$15, or \$10, or is there no limit?"

The law now sets noncompetitive rentals at 50¢ per acre per year.

Senator Gravel suggested that the flexible policy may reduce federal revenues from leases by driving the "little man" out of the high-risk lease system. "This is an area of private enterprise we want to keep intact," the Senator said.

And he said, that such a policy change may require legislative amendment of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, rather than the Interior Department procedures alone.

Husband, Wife Assigned to Work In Native Villages

COLLEGE—A husband and wife team has been assigned to work in native villages along the Kuskokwim River for the University of Alaska's Cooperative Extension Service, according to an announcement by Dr. Arthur S. Buswell, vice-president for public service.

Former Peace Corps volunteers in Central America, Stephen and Oril Hass will arrive in Aniak in early February, beginning their educational programs in community resource development Feb. 10.

Stephen Hass is a specialist in economics and business. A graduate of Stanford University in political science, he earned his master of science degree in agricultural economics from Oregon State University.

Oril Hass will concentrate on youth education and family development programs while at Aniak. A graduate of Dunbarton College in Washington, D.C., she received her master's degree in special education from Oregon College of Education.

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Reprint Requests on Med. Article Many

A medical article on findings about a respiratory disease in Alaska has brought widespread requests for reprints including requests from 19 foreign countries.

Titled "Cystic Hydatid Disease in Alaska" and co-authored by two men working for the U.S. Public Health Service in the state, the article appeared in the July, 1968 issue of AMERICAN REVIEW OF RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

To date some 240 reprint requests have come from leading medical centers of the United States and prominent medical authorities.

The 50 foreign requests include those from Canada, Italy, Belgium, New Zealand, Israel, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Netherlands, Australia, Hungary, India, Argentina, Chile, Romania, Great Britain, Venezuela, Sweden, South Africa and Sardinia.

The authors, reporting from their own research, involving more than 100 incidences of the disease, are Dr. Joseph F. Wilson, Chief of Surgical Service at the PHS Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage and Dr. Robert Rausch, Chief, Zoonotic Disease Section, Arctic Health Research Center.

The Arctic Health Research Center is a part of the PHS under the National Center for Urban and Industrial Health. The Alaska Area Health Service is a part of the Indian Health Service.

The article discusses aspects of the parasitic infection in humans in Alaska, its treatment, and the manifestations of the classic form of hydatid disease as known elsewhere in the world.

Hydatid disease is an infection caused by larval forms of certain cestodes and characterized by development of expanding cysts. Man is an occasional intermediate host and the disease mani-

fest itself by the presence of one or more hydatid cysts, usually located in the liver or the lung.

In the classic form of the disease, which is characterized as "pastoral," because it is associated with domestic animals, these cysts may have serious implications for health or even survival of the patient.

Severe symptoms usually call for surgical intervention which is frequently accompanied by a high complication rate and significant mortality.

Surgeons are universally agreed that any surgical excision of the cysts must be done with all possible precautions to prevent rupture of the cysts either before or during the operation.

It is a fortunate discovery that the disease among Native Alaskans is of the "sylvatic" form, i.e., associated with wild animals, causing a more benign disease in man and requiring less radical management.

Man apparently is not as suitable a host for the sylvatic form of the parasite and prospects for spontaneous cure without significant complications seem excellent.

The wolf is the chief natural primary host, and moose, caribou and reindeer the intermediate hosts. Dogs and man are often accidentally infected with the parasite but the clinical response in man to the Alaskan or Canadian parasite differs in every way from that of the classic or pastoral form.

While indicating that conservative management is clearly justified, the authors do warn that in areas of the world where both types of the disease may occur, such as elsewhere in North America, it is important to differentiate the one form from the other before determining management.

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