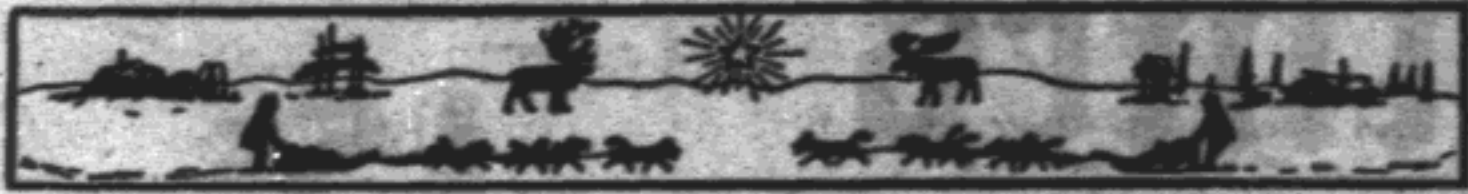


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." - Voltaire

Tundra Times



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The Turn-about . . .

(Continued from page 1)

emor Walter J. Hickel had established the Native Land Claims Task Force Commission and this Commission, along with the State Attorney General Edgar P. Boyko and Robert Vaughan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior Department, began the exhaustive work of drawing up a land bill. The three-way effort hammered out the S. 2906 which was introduced by Senator Ernest Gruening. The state legislature also hammered out and enacted its bill that largely contained proposals in the S. 2906.

The Secretary of the Interior had gotten his wish that a three-way effort be made in drawing up a land measure. There was even a hearing on the S. 2906 in Anchorage conducted by Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington State and his Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

The greatest portion of the testimonies favored S. 2906 and there was not a word of dissension from the Interior Department during the hearing. This was taken with the attitude that the Department was concurring with the proposals of the bill. So far so good, was the general feeling.

Lately, however, Stewart Udall has made a complete turn-about from his strong plea that a three-way effort be made to arrive at a compromise bill acceptable to all parties. He has drafted a new bill and this bill has completely ignored the efforts of the Task Force, the State and that of his own department. This is a strange turn of events after everyone concerned thought that a three-way working agreement had been achieved.

In his note to the editor of this newspaper, Senator Ernest Gruening said, "In my opinion, the Secretary's action in completely rejecting the work of the Task Force as represented by S. 2906 was arbitrary and completely unjustifiable."

The Secretary's new bill contains such proposals as the 50,000 acres per village contained in the controversial and original Interior bill S. 1964 and which was rejected by the native people of Alaska as "completely unacceptable."

Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives declared last week in the following manner:

"...The Task Force thought it had a commitment and I am sure that many members will consider the new draft a breach of faith by the Department of the Interior, and a breach of faith not only as to the land itself, but also as to the Department's evident intent to maintain permanent control of Alaska Natives, their organizations and business affairs..."

And, too, Secretary Udall may have set the stage and as he said in Anchorage, "we could be caught in a crossfire of an argument in Congress."

T-H Central Council Mulls Award Fund

The Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska convened for its annual convention in Juneau on April 25-26-27.

Elected delegates from San Francisco, Seattle, Anchorage and Southeastern Alaska communities concentrated their efforts on preparation for the forthcoming judgment fund of approximately \$7.5 million and a consideration of pending federal Alaska native land claims legislation.

A general counsel contract was established with the office of claims attorney I. S. Weissbrodt.

Preparation relative to the investment of judgment funds, the establishment of a full time secretarial position

and the restructuring of the Central Council and local community organizations in anticipation of added land claims and related responsibilities was formalized and adopted.

The following delegates were elected to a one-year term of office to positions in the Central Council and will collectively comprise the Executive Committee:

John Borbridge, president, Anchorage; Roger Lang, first vice president, Seattle; Kenneth Leask, vice president, Seattle; Charles Nelson, vice president, Ketchikan; Frank See, vice president, Hoonah; James Thomas, secretary, Yakutat; and Harvey Marvin, treasurer, Sitka.



S.E. Alaska Group to Affiliate with AFN

The Central Council voted to affiliate with the Alaska Federation of Natives, subject to ratification by member communities within 60 days from April 27.

The organization is also offering the services of its attorney, I. S. Weissbrodt (with offices in Washington, D. C.), in a liaison capacity to the AFN during this phase of the land claims fight.

This will include being a focal point for messages, various communications, information gathering, and other appropriate and necessary functions.

The Central Council has endorsed the seven point platform drawn up by the AFN as amendments to the proposed federal land claims legislation.

Letters to the Editor

May 10, 1968
Kongigonak, Alaska
99622

Dear Mr. Hartman,

We are writing to you again concerning our desperate need for a school in our new village of Kongigonak. We have stated that we will have over seventy children for the 1968-69 school year.

We received your letter today asking the Bureau of Indian Affairs to put a school in our village as soon as possible. We were promised a school building this winter (a warehouse, or teachers quarters) but nothing was done to get the needed building here. What are we to do with the seventy children this coming school year? We must restate that none of our children will go out to boarding school next year. All the villagers have agreed on this fact.

We were told by our State Representatives George Hohman, and Ray Christenson that \$75,000 was set aside by the State for a temporary building here in the village. Byron Shaquanie of RDA has shown his willingness to help us. Since the BIA has made no overtures to solve the need for a school, we feel that the State money should and must be used for a temporary school this coming school year.

As we now understand the situation, the BIA has no plans for the coming year, but say we must wait five or ten years for a school. Our need is now. We intend to keep writing until we get some satisfactory answer.

All of the villagers are united in this cause. We were told we have State money and we hope it will be utilized for our need.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
John A. Phillip
Vice President
Kongigonak Council

c.c. Senator Gruening
Rep. Pollock
State Rep. George Hohman
State Rep. Ray Christenson
RDA Director Mark Jacobs
RDA Rep. Byron Shaquanie
Tundra Times

Sec. Udall's Action Shock Tyonek Folks

It was very shocking to hear that the Interior Sec. turned down the Native Land Claims bill after all was said at his meeting in Alaska recently.

Native leaders as well as the State of Alaska and a representative from the Interior Secretary's office put many many hours work on the claims bill.

Leaders from far up north risk their lives daily in behalf of other natives concerned just to be turned down.

Everyone asks why, but no one knows just what the Secretary is up to.

At any rate Alaskan natives won't stop for the Secretary or any one else.

BCF Draws on Space Age to Aid Research

A novel space-age program of cooperation between a Department of the Interior research vessel and whether satellites in orbit is set to begin off the coast of West Africa late this year.

If successful, such projects could supply knowledge of inestimable value to commercial fishermen in terms of more efficient predictions of favorable fishing conditions and larger catches, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall said.

The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (BCF) ship, "Undaunted," has been chosen as the first marine research vessel to work with Nimbus satellites in a feasibility study on monitoring oceanic fronts from space.

The vessel operates out of Miami, where it is attached to the Bureau's Tropical Atlantic Biological Laboratory.

Oceanic fronts, present in specific areas of the world, form boundaries between water masses and appear to act as concentrating mechanisms for surface-schooling fish like the tunas.

The study is part of a program funded by NASA and administered by the U.S. Navy Oceanographic Office to determine what useful oceanographic data can be collected by spacecraft.

BCF personnel in charge of the project are Dr. Paul M. Maughan of Washington, D. C., and Dr. Merton C. Ingham of the Miami laboratory.

Under the experimental arrangement, the "Undaunted" will use standard equipment to gather fishery, oceanographic, and meteorological data; however, the regular equipment will be augmented by a new automatic picture transmission (APT) receiver aboard the ship.

The APT will receive
(Continued on page 8)

WANTED: Chilkot Blankets; totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; potlatch bowls; fish hooks; spoons and all N.W. items 50 years of age or older. Send photo or sketch and prices to: Albert T. Miller, 2235 West Live Oak Dr. Los Angeles, California 90028.