

NEWS BRIEFS . . .

THE FIRST MAJOR CONVEYANCE of land under ANCSA is expected to take place in the next few months following approval on Aug. 6 of an agreement between Interior Secretary Kleppe and officials of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. Under terms of the agreement, which Kleppe called a landmark in the claims settlement process, about four million acres will be turned over to the corporation which is based in Barrow.

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CALLING THE CHARGES "a malicious attempt on the part of a University of Alaska employe," James Milne, president of the Inupiat University of the Arctic, says he is innocent of alleged embezzlement of a \$13,000 government check. Milne says that attempts to destroy the new University at Barrow at a crucial time in its growth are "not coincidental to the charges against him."

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CHARGING THAT THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT has not effectively met its administrative responsibilities, Commissioner of Natural Resources Guy Martin has offered the help of the State of Alaska to resolve conflicts in the recreational easements policy that is holding up conveyance of land under ANCSA. In a letter to Secretary Kleppe, dated Aug. 6, Martin suggested a meeting between government and private concerns. AFN President Sam Kito responded to Martin's move by charging that it was a new policy stance which the State wrongfully had not discussed with the Alaska Federation of Natives and said AFN would have nothing to say in the type of forum Martin was suggesting. Kito also maintained that the State itself was involved in delaying conveyance of native land.

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THE FIRST COMMERCIAL ICEBREAKER to successfully plow through the arctic ice pack has arrived in Pt. Barrow from Point Franklin in two days while 40 vessels carrying cargo for Prudhoe Bay were left behind waiting the results of the "Arctic Challenger's" attempt. Meanwhile, the Coast Guard icebreaker "Burton Island" also made it to Pt. Barrow, leading a Canadian convoy of drilling rigs. The Canadians intend to drill two wildcat exploratory wells this season in the eastern Beaufort Sea, a plan opposed by North Slope Borough Mayor Eben Hopson.

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ACTION UNDERWAY in the U.S. House will disqualify up to 461,250 families from the food stamp rolls and cut the benefits of another 1.5 million households. While increasing benefits to about 2.6 million families, the legislation would disqualify those involved in labor disputes.

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DUNCAN PRYDE, most widely known for his best-selling book, "Nunaga," and now director of the Barrow Council on Alcoholism, has been ordered to leave Alaska

by Aug. 15 because the Immigration Office says he never obtained a visa and is working illegally. Pryde maintains that he applied for a visa through Inupiat University in Barrow where he was hired in February, 1975 to teach the Inupiat language. A Scotsman and landed Canadian immigrant, Pryde has lived and worked in the arctic for 18 years. He is presently compiling a dictionary and grammar of eight Inupiat dialects, and writing a survival manual for the arctic.

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IN AN EFFORT to expand the number of native Americans eligible for public service jobs and reaffirm Congressional commitment to the concept of self-determination, amendments to the Emergency Jobs Extension Act have been made in the U.S. Senate under which Alaskan native groups will qualify as prime sponsors of public service jobs and will be eligible for funds to carry out the programs. The amendments were sponsored by Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska.

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APPOINTED TO THE board of directors of United Bank of Alaska are Richard E. Wagner of Fairbanks and John W. Colberg of Seldovia. The Anchorage bank is owned by five native regional corporations.

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ACCUSING THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME of "thorough incompetency," Ketchikan-based fisherman have filed a second suit asking for an investigation into a state-ordered closure of gillnet and seine salmon fisheries from Wrangell to the Canadian border. The suit also requests a court order to force establishment of a 21-hour weekly opening for seine fishermen.

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ALASKA WILL RECEIVE the highest individual allocations in the country under the airport development aid program enacted by Congress last month: \$18.4 million for air-carrier airport development and \$2.78 million for general aviation airport development.

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ALASKANS NEWLY appointed to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, one of eight set up nationwide to manage coastal fisheries when the 200-mile offshore jurisdiction goes into effect next year, are Elmer Rasmuson of Anchorage, Henry Eaton of Kodiak, Clem Tillion of Halibut Cove, Bart Eaton of Kodiak, and Charles Meacham of Juneau.

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Athletes travel to Smithsonian . .

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this week and next. This year's outstanding athlete and winner of the first Howard Rock Memorial Trophy, Reggie Joule of Kotzebue, has decided to go in spite of his walking cast. A first place in the Men's Blanket Toss also earned him a broken leg on the second night of the games, held Aug.

Program on alcoholism underway . . .

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for sub-regional coordinators. The internship would be a training program intended to decentralize the work of the consortium and the interns would work as professionals and resource people with local medical teams.

Setting up a detoxification center and a rehab center are other initial priorities of the group that the entire community would benefit from since local, state and federal contracts would most likely be involved.

Monies for the new program are available. Stoner feels, largely because legislators are aware of the problem, quality of staffing for alcohol programs has been improving, and such legislation as the Indian Health Improvement Act has been passed. He predicts that the program will be eligible for funds from the government on a limited basis.

As of Aug. 13, Stoner became coordinator of the planning and

implementation of the program but he continually emphasizes that this time the approach will not be to sit in Fairbanks and tell others in the region what to do. He is actively seeking and getting input from the others involved and calls it a "cooperative effort."

One reason why cooperation is so essential, Stoner says, is because it is hard to expect villages to have "sequence of care continuity" and an effective treatment system without the support of a setting like Fairbanks and the backup of a larger group such as the consortium.

Stoner, who has worked for TCC Health Authority for a year by letter of agreement with his employer, the Alaska Native Special Alcoholism Program (ANSAP) in Anchorage, will have written a draft proposal for the plan to be submitted for review when the group meets again Aug. 27. Final revisions will be made and the

proposal will be submitted by Sept. 1 to IHS in Anchorage. Then comes negotiation with IHS contracts for funding.

When asked what makes this project different from many others in existence, Stoner replies that there is now a greater understanding of how to treat alcoholism and to set up a system that works. It's now a matter of "making the most of what we've got and improving that as much as possible."

Even though IHS and most everybody else has known of the problem for a long time, and even though many have wanted to do something like this for a long time, Stoner says it's been a matter of reaching a point where they can really start.

He feels that a point has been reached and that it is now possible to coordinate and formulate "for the first time, a really successful program that will offer promise and hope to the recovering alcoholic."

Alleged discrimination investigated . .

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tation in the population, the apparent refusal of the department to admit officer misconduct, and the haphazard procedure for administrative investigations.

By studying community and police backgrounds, population and arrest statistics, procedures of internal department administrative investigations, and specific cases, the research team of Cara Peters and Donna Komure produced "significant inferences of possible discrimination" and suggestions for further study and action. But they stated that more conclusive answers were needed before they could recommend that Revenue Sharing funds be cut off.

Specific findings showed that in comparison to their 5 per cent representation in the Fairbanks population, the percentage of arrests of natives in 1976 was 32 per cent, or six times greater than their percentage of the population. In comparison, blacks comprise 5.6 per cent of the population and account for 11 per cent of Fairbanks arrests.

Most of these arrests are either for disorderly conduct or "other offenses" (usually littering) which are controlled by local ordinances and which give the arresting officer broad discretionary power in interpreting when to arrest or what constitutes the offense.

After the drunkenness law was repealed in 1975, arrests for disorderly conduct went up sharply and over half of those arrests are of natives. In the category of "other offenses" where officer discretion is required even more, the commission found that "the large percentage of blacks and natives arrested for littering makes the proper use of police discretion open to question."

Another broad area of investigation was the way in which

the department handles citizen complaints. The researchers found that there are no uniform procedures for making citizen complaints, that formal administrative investigations are the exception rather than the rule, that no records are kept of informal complaints, that the department does not question the officers' judgement or conduct but only whether or not the officer acted lawfully, and that there are no procedures for notifying citizens of the outcome of the few investigations that do take place.

The commission concluded that this area is seriously deficient, that it discredits the department in the eyes of the community and breeds "an atmosphere of alienation."

The reports states that the investigators spoke to over 50 people, reviewed five years of issues of a local newspaper, combed through police files, compiled affidavits from those who had personally experienced police brutality and spent three nights observing patrol activities on Second Avenue.

They found that the younger officers were described by people as less set in their ways and that it was felt things were getting better. During their night-time observations, the investigators reported that no overt hostility toward police emerged and the one volatile situation they watched erupt was handled well.

In its suggestions for future study and action, the commission reiterated its hesitancy, given the amount of time and limit of information, to draw inferences of discrimination from the arrest data. It also stated "we also believe that this local problem can be effectively addressed locally," and recommended that the city analyze the questions posed by the commission with the aid of a task force of community representatives.

The task force advisory group was suggested not as a review agency but rather as a communications aid and a way of helping the police department serve its citizens "as professionally as possible."

In a letter dated May 26, the city was informed that the inquiry had begun on May 15. City Manager Ed Martin was also advised at that time that "formal proceedings before the commission could com-

mence in addition to any independent action which ORS might take based upon the commission's report."

However, to date, the commission is proceeding on a course of action intended to encourage community involvement in the problem. Human Rights Commission Executive Director Neil Thomas said last week that this is a case that is "best resolved if local people take the ball, rather than always looking to the state."

He pointed out that there is an ordinance already on the Fairbanks books allowing for the establishment of a local human rights commission although, to his knowledge, has never been staffed or funded. Thomas thinks that might be a particularly good solution since a researcher, under a grant from the Humanities Forum, has been looking into where local commissions might be beneficial and has concluded that Fairbanks would be a likely place.

Thomas reiterated that there is a wealth of community resources here, including the university, that could be used to work with the police department to help answer some of the commission's unanswered questions and to help give the department more credibility.

As a result of this study, Thomas also suggested that the city might see the establishment of a local commission as a way of getting at some of the other tough problems it is facing currently, like Second Avenue.

Perhaps he hit the nail on the head. At last week's volatile City Council meeting on the Second Avenue situation, black bar owner, Pete Aiken, commented on the possible passage of a loitering ordinance asking that that it be used carefully since it would disrupt the one place blacks and natives feel they have to go.

Speaking directly to the complexities now opened to public view by the commission's police study, Aiken said, "If a white person walks into a bar, he's assumed to be a law-abiding citizen until he breaks the law. Blacks and natives can't do that. These people on the street have just as much right to be there as anyone else. If they break the law, arrest them. If they don't leave them alone."