

LAND CLAIMS BABY ...

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Anchorage time, 6 p.m. Nome time, 9 p.m. in Juneau).

Our sole entry so far is Holly

Joe Upicksoun ...

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oil companies for a promise—of jobs...

"As it turns out, the pressure of the pipeline simply has required the Congress to move. You are getting paid faster—perhaps one hundred years faster—because the Arctic Slope Native Association said—No—No—No—" Upicksoun charged.

In his speech, Upicksoun referred to the time one year ago when ASNA withdrew from the Alaska Federation of Natives.

"Just one year ago—the Arctic Slope Native Association met with your board of directors. We had withdrawn from your organization and you wanted us back. And so—just one year ago—we—the Arctic Slope Native Association and you—the Alaska Federation of Natives struck a bargain: for most of the settlement we would divide it on the land-lost formula and we rejoined you.

"It took you one month to break your promise. You got us back because the North Slope oil has the glamour and you needed us. And then you broke your promise."

"This is a whiteman's world. We are supposed to compete in that world. We are not against that. But how greedy can you be—that you start the race to Western culture with so many tools—education, for example—and you want to gobble us up?"

Upicksoun attacked the State of Alaska's selections of slope oil fields as a "direct effort to grab our lands with full knowledge of what she was doing."

"Not only has the Congress put its approval on this grabbing, but I did not see a single regional association step up and help the Arctic Slope Native Association. You are so busy fighting for your population proportion."

"How did the State get these superior rights? I will tell you. Senator Stevens, Senator Gravel Congressman Begich teamed up with Aspinall and Haley."

Upicksoun disclosed that the village of Nookitsut, a traditional slope village had been excised from the final list of villages to be included in the Claims Act.

"Nookitsut is three miles from the new oil strike," Upicksoun said. "We reason that Senator Stevens was, and is, determined to make the land we get worthwhile."

He accused Governor Egan of being part of the team. After advocating that the Natives should get fee simple rights in Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 the result was just the opposite, Upicksoun charged.

"We get no State selected of TA'd lands. We get no Petroleum No. 4 lands, and no wild-life refuge lands."

"Thus, the only eligible villages we have are Anaktuvik Pass and Point Hope. These men have made sure that the lands we get have no economic value. Yes, we will get some "in lieu" selections, but the restrictions on where we can select are so huge, we will have to do some real scrounging to make them meaningful."

"What are we going to do about it? The human body is a wonderful thing. We, the Inupiat Eskimos have been resourceful enough to live in the North. We will survive. Our real emotion now is one of sadness—it need not have been this way. But like people around the world—when there is social discontent—we must react—we must find some other way of achieving our self-identity and self-respect."

Christine Jung, who entered the world bright and early at 9:32 a.m. Saturday morning at Alaska Native Health Service Hospital in Anchorage.

Polks of P.H.S. units in Nome Kotzebue, Barrow, Dillingham, Mt. Edgecumbe, Bethel and Tanana haven't turned up any other children born on that lucky date Fairbanks Community Hospital and Bassett Army Hospital also report no native babies born that day.

Statistically, more than 6,000 children are born in Alaska each year. That makes about 14 every day—and a quarter of them should be native.

We're holding the contest open for one month, till January 20, 1972. Parents who have a baby born on December 18, 1971 who qualifies under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Act (1/4 native Indian, Aleut, Eskimo or any combination thereof) should submit the baby's name, time of birth and proof (birth certificate, notarized statement by Doctor or attendant), to the TUNDRA TIMES before January 20.

Entries must be postmarked before midnight. Our address is Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707.

President Signs Bill ...

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Following the President's speech, ex-governor and ex-Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel, AFN President Don Wright and Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) gave speeches to the convention.

"The native people did not have a legal claim, they had a moral claim," said Hickel.

"We're starting on a new era—the post settlement era," said AFN President Don Wright. "By no means is it over, it's just beginning," he said.

Senator Stevens defended the "secret meeting" two weeks ago at which he, Congressman Nick Begich, Senator Gravel and Governor Egan came together to devise an Alaska Delegation position which they would present to the whole Conference Committee.

"I'm hopeful that all of you realize the somber duty you have," Stevens said. "In recent history there has not been a settlement of this type that does not require a plan submitted in advance to Congress or to the Secretary of the Interior."

"You will carry the burden not only for your grandchildren to come but for those Indian groups in the lower 48 that still seek settlement of their claims. The eyes of the nation will be on you as you acquire substantial assets and manage your own affairs."

"There are things in this bill that some of you do not like. Some of them I put there," Stevens said.

"With that he defended provisions of the act which provide that 10 per cent of the money received by regional corporations must be distributed per capita on an annual basis."

The purpose of this, Stevens claims, is that the native old people can see something of the land settlement today—not wait for the future.

"God guide you and God bless you and please remember those that will come after you and those that came before you," he ended.

The two native associations who voted against the bill have serious reservations about it. The Arctic Slope Native Association sent a protest telegram to President Nixon on Saturday.

According to the provisions

North Slope Borough Proposal ...

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of the Alaska House Gene Guess (D-Anchorage) last week in the ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS, Guess told news reporter Allan Frank that the North Slope Borough proposal may be a catalyst for a major rewriting of local government laws in the 1972 legislative session.

"There will be some proposal on government in the unorganized borough and a Department of Community Affairs," he said.

"The administration is considering some sort of measure—this wouldn't be just the North Slope Borough—it would be government in the unorganized borough."

"There is really, really a need for getting some type of regional government in rural Alaska," Guess said.

The Arctic Slope Native Association has petitioned the Local Affairs agency for a 56 million acre borough, stretching from the Brooks Range to the Arctic to the Arctic Ocean. It would include and tax the rich Prudhoe Bay oil fields.

Oil companies are the major opposition to the move. At hearings in Barrow this past month, four representatives

from major oil companies appeared to present testimony opposed to the Slope Borough proposal. They argued that it would result in inequitable distribution of the oil wealth.

The ASNA argues that their proposed borough fulfills the conditions set out according to Title VII of the Alaska Statutes as well, or better than any other borough in the state.

With the borough form of government, they argue, they could tax the oil companies and use their 10 per cent of state selected lands to develop community services and an educational system.

Without the revenues, as Barrow City Manager, Jack Chenoweth testified, Barrow, at least faces a bleak future.

It's budget of \$120,000 \$70,000 from sales tax and \$50,000 matching funds provides little room for expansion.

The five communities of the North Slope—Barrow, Wainwright, Point Hope, Anaktuvuk Pass and Kaktovik live in condi-

tions which are in stark contrast to urban Alaska. They argue that since the State of Alaska gained its \$900,000,000 oil bonanza from Prudhoe Bay two years ago, none of that money has gone back to the Slope. Only by an independent tax base, argues ASNA President Joseph Upicksoun, can they be sure services will be provided.

Last week Local Affairs Agency Head Byron Mallott contracted the University of Alaska Institute of Social Economic, Government Research to study the hearing and testimony transcripts for the North Slope borough and complete an evaluation.

"What they are looking for is a plan for local government in rural Alaska. I think," said ISEGR professor Thomas Morehouse. The transcript on the borough proposal is still open, according to Mallott and the Local Boundary agency will meet early in January to make its decision.

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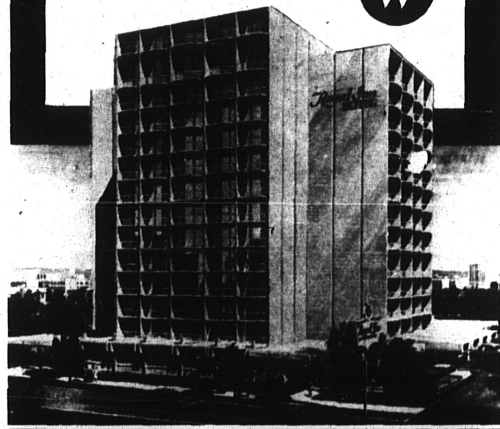
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