

# Minto Experiencing Foodstuff Shortage

The village of Minto is reported to be experiencing food shortage due to very cold weather Interior Alaska has been having the last few weeks.

Due to 40-50 below zero temperatures, plane service to Minto has been curtailed. Hunting is also difficult in the very cold weather.

Wally Craig, superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fairbanks district, said he has been trying to arrange for food drop by helicopter but the weather still has been cold.

Craig said he might approach Jack Murphy, civil defense director, to try to arrange a snowmobile caravan with the Fairbanks snowmobile association to bring food to Minto.

He said that there was about 3,000 pounds of food waiting to be shipped to Minto village but planes had been unable to transport it due to extreme cold.

# Commitment Sought

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Udall.

Udall reiterated what he termed his "last news conference," that the land freeze should be retained and that it was in the best interest of Alaska and its native people.

Udall said the land freeze would do much to expedite an early settlement of the native land claims issue which has gone so long unresolved.

The leadership of the Alaska Federation of Natives is in Washington today seeking definite commitment from the Secretary of the Interior designate Walter J. Hickel as to his position on the current Alaskan land freeze imposed by the outgoing Secretary Stewart L. Udall.

The AFN, a statewide native organization representing some 54,000 Eskimos, Indians, and Aleuts, is being represented by the AFN President Emil Notti; John Borbridge, first vice president of the organization and president of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians; State Rep. Willie Hensley of Kotzebue; Eben Hopson, executive director of the Arctic Slope Native Association and former legislator; and Barry Jackson of Fairbanks, counsel for the group.

The delegation is seeking clarification as to whether Hickel intends to continue the land freeze, lift it, or offer an alternative land proposal plan for solution acceptable to Alaska's native people.

The action stemmed from a special meeting of the AFN board of directors called last Tuesday to discuss whether to agree to Hickel's request that the organization give a blanket endorsement to his confirmation as Secretary of the Interior.

The decision of the native leadership to make the Washington trip at this time is being seen as an important move by the native people and the outcome of the talks and final decision of the AFN regarding Walter Hickel will carry important weight on the confirmation proceedings.

The move has strong political overtones stemming from the fact that Hickel has asked the AFN for endorsement and the organization's part may carry important notice next Wednesday when the secretary designate appears before the Interior committee for confirmation.

The move is also being seen as an important prop for the AFN leadership as a bargaining point.

Walter Hickel has expressed some strong indications that he can "undo" what Secretary Stewart Udall has done. The land freeze imposed by Udall is a strong case in point.

The native leadership thinks that Hickel might "undo" the freeze which they think gives the native people a strong political "in" when Congress begins the long-awaited deliberations on the native land problem in Alaska.

In the meantime, the Association of Village Council Presidents representing 10,000 Eskimos and Indians in the lower Kuskokwim and Yukon areas, has issued a formal endorsement of the appointment of Gov. Walter Hickel as Secretary of the Interior.

The association has urged all U.S. Senators to support and confirm Hickel for secretary.

Moses Paukan, president of the AVCP, stated that a man of Hickel's caliber and knowledge of Alaskan problems is indispensable to the welfare of the state in solving many problems.

"The Nixon administration could not have done Alaska a bigger favor," said Paukan, "than to appoint an Alaskan as Secretary of the Interior. Alaska has always suffered from misunderstanding, misshapen policies and federal bureaucratic nonsense, primarily through agencies of the Department of the Interior."

On the other hand, the Kuskokwim Valley Native Association has pulled its earlier intention to endorse Hickel. The final decision of the group will probably depend on the outcome of the AFN conference with Hickel in Washington.

The attitude of the Arctic Slope Native Association was not known at the time of this writing but the Arctic area people are known to have some strong feelings negative to Hickel.

The general feeling among the native leaders seems to be toward endorsing Hickel for confirmation.

They felt that if they didn't, their "hands would be bitten anyway" because of their strong feeling that the oil industry would be the big winner in the process as far as oil discovery in Alaska is concerned.

The native people feel also that their lands were being taken all the time because of land selections by the state in areas they used for food getting and areas they have occupied traditionally.

Some tempers have developed over these occurrences The out-

## Richard Frank

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the IRA status.

Frank said the board of directors of the AVEC has the final say in the implementation of power installations in villages. When the decision of the board is made, the board talks to the manager of the AVEC, Willard Rhodes, who then directs the installations.

State Rep. Willie Hensley is the president of the board. Members are Morris Thompson, Jimmie Hoffman, Dave Peterson, Diane Carpenter.

Richard Frank said that AVEC will go full bore when the weather warms to put power in the villages.

"Lot of people thought it could never be done, but it is actually working now," said he.



PUPPETEERS—An amateur troupe of puppeteers from the City of Anchorage last month performed for the school children and residents of Bethel. Five other villages missed the show due to inclement weather. The puppeteers are showing their homemade puppets and they are, from left

to right, Jane Pattison, Ronnie Lynn, Phillip and Danny Lou DePalmer. The trip to Bethel was sponsored by Wien Consolidated Airlines and 1st National Bank of Anchorage.

(Wien Consolidated Airlines Photo by SKIP WALL)

# Coonjohn Promoted To Model Cities Post

E. Johnny Coonjohn of Juneau, formerly Field Representative for the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., has been promoted to Manpower Administrator's Representative for Model Cities in the U.S. Department of Labor.

Coonjohn, who was an Administrative Assistant in Manpower Development and Training with the Alaska State Department of Labor, will be based in Atlanta, Georgia in his new position.

He was also Southeastern Alaska Field Representative for the Office of Economic Opportunity under Governor William A. Egan's Administration.

come of the talks between Hickel and the AFN leadership in Washington can either fan these feelings or allay them.

# Canadian Eskimo Competing . . .

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to familiarize themselves with the terrain and other details of the race.

Pudnak is rated as an excellent competitor. Although he has never raced in official competitions, he boasts of having beaten one of the top competitors of the 1967 World Championship Snowmobile Derby held at Eagle River, Wisconsin—Hugh Ungun-gai, another Eskimo from the Northwest Territories.

Until he was 17 Pudnak was hooked on dog teams. He was born in a tent on the tundra near Eskimo Point, Northwest Territories on Sept. 6, 1945.

He was learning the ways of the land hunting and trapping but saw his first snowmobile in 1962. He was hooked.

Pudnak had gone to school at Chesterfield Inlet, Baker Lake and Yellowknife and was now working with the Northern Affairs Office as an interpreter. He recalls that he was offered a job at head office in Ottawa as a translator. "I only lasted three months. The skidoo season is too short down there," said Pudnak.

He returned to the north to Baker Lake and has remained in the north ever since.

He and his wife Vera and two

Coonjohn will be responsible for advising six southern states, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi, in the Model Cities Program.

He will supervise the administration of the Program in those states, assisting communities that apply for Model Cities grants. The Model Cities Program is a federal program that is designed to rehabilitate cities.

It encompasses housing, community facilities, health, education, and welfare, employment, and industrial development.

Coonjohn, who lives in Mendenhall, is married and has four children. His wife, Susan, is a teacher in the Juneau-Douglas School District. Mr. and Mrs. Coonjohn are both alumni of the University of Alaska.

# 'Chichalyu' . . .

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Fairbanks and Nenana, during the great flood of August 14, 1967.

"The villagers are all agreed to move to Tolovana River," stated Richard Frank.

Other sites considered were Chatinika River, nine miles from Fairbanks, and Tochaket, about 15 miles upriver from Nenana.

Richard Frank was chief of Minto in 1960-1962. Peter John is now the chief of the village.

# King Crab . . .

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ure on February 15.

This special closure is to provide added protection to king crabs on a known breeding area.

In announcing the closure of king crab fishing on February 15, 1969, for the Board, Ed Huizer, Director of the Division of Commercial Fisheries stated that the closure was considered necessary for the conservation of the king crab stocks.

"The cessation of king crab fishing on February 15, 1969 will eliminate handling of crabs during the molting and mating periods in the late winter and spring when crabs are especially vulnerable to injury. During the molting season, meat recovery and quality also decline."

"These factors hold true not only for the westward areas, where king crabs have been intensively fished, but also for areas such as Prince William Sound and Southeastern Alaska where the intensity of the fishery and production has been low," Huizer added.

# Testifies . . .

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Anchorage challenging the jurisdiction of the foreign trade zone board and Secretary of Interior to grant applications for the foreign trade sub-zone.

Concern has been voiced that the availability of an increasing supply of lower cost foreign crude oil coupled with higher production costs in Alaska could slow exploration and development of the state's oil resources.

"These applications to establish foreign trade sub-zones for transporting crude oil marks still another instance of Alaskans being effectively prohibited from competing in trade by our own laws," Pollock stated.