



MACKENZIE DELTA DRUMMERS—The Drum Dancers of Inuvik, N.W.T. will be the first Canadian Eskimo participants at the World Eskimo Olympics in Fairbanks August 9-12. The picture of the group was taken during the Drummer's visit to Edmonton, Alberta's Mukluk Mardi Gras earlier this year. Back row, left to right, Sidney Ayak, Edward Arey, Alex Gordon, priest, Tom Kalinak, Kenneth Peeloolook, Felix Nuyaviak. Front row, left to right, Maggie Day, Catherine Hanson, Hope Gordon, Martha Day, Rosie Peeloolook, Elmira Soupav, Raddi Kowikchuk, Amos Paul, Laura Day, James Day, and Billy Day. Forty people are expected to come to Fairbanks from Inuvik consisting of performers and spectators.

Udall Recommends

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taken up the ball and has now "undertaken as a major project of his administration an ambitious extension of the Alaska Railroad to the Arctic."

The following is the Interior Department's recommendation:

EXTENSION OF ALASKA RAILROAD

In most parts of the United States, the substantial extension of an existing railroad would properly be viewed as folly. The circumstances which prevail in the portion of Alaska north and west of the Railbelt Area, however, make extension of the wholly government-owned Alaska Railroad appear a developmental imperative.

Here lie proven and indicated minerals and other resources, many of which await only economic transportation for their development. Here, also, economical, regular, all-season, bulk surface transportation could result in great economic growth; but water transportation must be seasonal, major road construction and associated maintenance costs are discouraging, and air costs are limiting.

Thus, extension of the Alaska Railroad to serve this area may be justified to open up this portion of the last great frontier of the Nation as construction of the transcontinental railroads was justified to open up the West.

It would be comparable to the recent construction by the Canadian Government of northward extensions of its railroad system, which are contributing significantly to the rapid development of the mineral and other resources of Canada's northwestern areas.

On the basis of presently proven mineral resources, the most appropriate plan would involve a two-step extension of the railroad from its present interior terminus area at Dunbar (immediately west of Fairbanks) first to Kobuk

and then north from Alatna to Gubik as indicated on Plate 3.

The first would be an extension of 405 miles and the second an additional 250 miles. Rough estimates indicate sector costs of \$157 million and \$107 million, respectively. This would provide access to a presently remote area equal to California and Indian combined.

Construction of the two sectors would be phased not only because of the obvious engineering advantages to be had from so doing, but also because the immediacy of high yields dictates that the Kobuk segment should have priority.

The massive mineral exploration activity and rich finds along the south slope of the Endicott Mountains make this the prime routing. The known and growing economic geology of the north slope of the Brooks Range (at present, oil and gas finds) makes the line to Gubik a natural add-on.

The result, essentially, would be a bisecting of the State, with a railroad system effectively bringing tens of thousands of square miles and hundreds of existing and potential settlements within striking distance of mass transportation.

With military installations of various kinds scattered over the area, and perhaps others contemplated, logistical difficulties could be substantially relieved in terms of supply requirements and costs.

Present high-cost barriers to economic activity in this vast area of the State would be reduced as supply and product flows increased, until cost decreased, and transport times to, from, and within the State shortened.

Of considerable significance is the effect the extension would have on the complexion of the river transportation on the Yukon (see Plate 3).

The present difficult and

"Some men have hundreds of reasons why they cannot do what they want to do when all they need is just one good reason why they can." WHITNEY

Six Native Men Out of 252...

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officials had held pre-award conferences with contractors, had written affirmative action programs, and in other ways had tried to make equal employment opportunity a reality.

"In May and June, our members referred skilled and unskilled job seekers to the two principal subcontractors, Raber-Kief-Beck-Universal Services (\$3.07 million for general construction), and we held meetings with contractors and union leaders," Robert Arnold reported.

"We learned, among other things, that the contractors had agreements with unions that made their hiring halls the exclusive referral sources for their work force.

"And we learned that relatively few natives were members of unions and that, further, natives who might have appropriate skills were often unfamiliar with union procedures, including out-of-work lists."

Meanwhile, prime contracts had been let to Parco, Inc. (\$12.8 million for drilling) and to D & H Welding Co. (for welding services)—both non-union firms from Oklahoma.

Officials of both firms have given assurances of hiring trainees or helpers from minority groups.

"Some members of our committee, however," continued Arnold, "wondered aloud whether skilled employees needed by the firms might also be found in Alaska."

"In July, we took pride in how we had succeeded in one intention—we had learned what barriers there are to implementation of EEO affirmative action programs for federal contractors at Amchitka."

"And in July, we despaired over failure of another intention. We learned that of the 23 minority persons in the two principal subcontractors' work force of 252, there were six Alaskan natives."

Following are figures presented by George Strong, Industrial Relations Division, Atomic Energy Commission, on July 19:

S. S. Mullen, Inc.; 16 minority persons (including four natives) in a work force of 177 at Amchitka.

Raber-Kief-Beck-Universal Services; seven minority persons (including two

MISS MIDNIGHT SUN—Betty Ann Hoogenboom, who was chosen Miss Midnight Sun at Nome's Midnight Sun Festival earlier this year, will represent her city at the 1967 World Eskimo Olympics beauty pageant. —By NOME NUGGET Courtesy



natives) in a work force of 75 at Amchitka.

In the Mullen subcontract, unions with more than ten members on the job that had minority representations were laborers (6 of 16), carpenters (5 of 30), teamsters (2 of 22), and electricians (1 of 12). Only the operating engineers had no minority representation (0 of 54).

In the Universal Services subcontract, the seven minority persons were bull cooks, waiters, or laborers.

Parco, Inc. and D & H Welding—the two more recent prime contractors with AEC's Amchitka project—have only recently begun hiring and have not yet been required to file reports of minority employment.

Remedial Efforts

To attempt at remedial efforts on the problems of native employment in union construction jobs, the Ad Hoc EEO committee on Amchitka has worked out the following plans:

First: Investigate pre-apprenticeship training funded by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Second: Meet with union officials to learn of their apprenticeship programs and requirements.

Third: Offer assistance to unions desiring to broaden their membership.

Fourth: Encourage native Alaskans to consider entrance into unions.

In regard to non-union jobs, the Ad Hoc committee has set to work on the following:

First: Obtain complete job description list from contractors once contract is awarded.

Second: Assist contractors to meet their EEO obligations by finding qualified job applicants from minority groups.

"George Strong has promised to send us lists of manpower needs for all non-union contractors, together with brief job descriptions," Arnold stated in his report.

"Until these are received, the only job applicants we should be alert to locating are two groups of five trainees for Parco, Inc., the drilling contractor, and five welder-helpers for D & H Welding, the welding contractor."

Strong has also advised the

group whether welder-certification tests can be carried out in Alaska instead of Oklahoma to permit Alaskan welders to become certified.

"As I see it," Arnold continued, "our committee should now invite representatives of other federal agencies that are important contractors to learn of their EEO efforts and to sell them of our interests."

"We can learn whether their contractors employ more native Alaskans that four out of one hundred in a work force (as at Amchitka)."

"We can learn what their problems in increasing native hire are. And—maybe we can do something useful."

The Ad Hoc Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity: Amchitka, is made up of the following members:

Robert D. Arnold, chairman, from the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska, Anchorage; John Bucholdt, Executive Director, Community Action Agency, Anchorage; Jim Claymore, Employment Assistant Officer, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Anchorage;

Ella Craig, Chief, Social Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Anchorage; Harold Groothuis, Chairman, Governor's Employment Advisory Commission, Anchorage; Yvonne Krotke, Manager, Alaska State Employment Service, Anchorage;

Helen March, Employment Supervisor, Alaska State Employment Service, Anchorage; Ray McLain, Executive Director, Human Relations Commission, Anchorage; W. A. Niemi, representing the Building Trades Council, Anchorage;

Emil Notti, President, Alaska Federation of Natives, Anchorage; Tom Pillifant, Superintendent, Anchorage District, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Anchorage; Eli Reyes, Minority Group Specialist, Alaska State Employment Service, Juneau;

Larman Stennis, Field Representative, Alaska Human Rights Commission, Anchorage; Woodrow Thomas, Management Training Officer, Alaska State Community Action Program, Inc., Anchorage; Don Wright, President, Cook Inlet Native Association, Anchorage.

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