

Easement suit filed against Interior . . .

community has indicated feeling runs strong among Native people that easements which are too broad will be an unfair use without payment of land which is supposed to be theirs. On the other hand, sportsmen's groups such as the Alaska Public Easements Defense Fund have said publicly that all Alaskan

waters are a public resource and should be available for public recreational use. The suit asks that the present orders be declared unlawful and invalid and asks that the Secretary be prohibited from carrying them out.

In further contends that the Secretary exceeded his authority in granting certain easements:

1) The corridor easement in Order 2987 for transportation of energy, fuel and natural resources "which are the property of the U.S. or which are intended for delivery to the U.S. or which are produced by the U.S." The order states that the Secretary is reserving easements rather than delineating them.

The Native plaintiffs call this a floating easement and contend it is "creating a cloud on . . . plaintiff's title and interfering

with the use and enjoyment of their property."

The question of floating easements was brought up and rejected in negotiations before ANCSA was approved; according to a source close the the Native community.

2) The public easements reserved in Order 2982 for "recreation, access, transportation, utilities, airports and aircraft landing sites." The suit contends the continuous easement of 25 feet along the marine shoreline is unlawful, and also attacks the reservation of easements "along all rivers and streams having highly significant present recreational use," including "nonnavigable recreational rivers and streams." The suit contends the law limits public easements to "periodic points along the course of major waterways."

The suit contends this order is unlawful because it authorizes federal authorities to "reserve

easements to which such plaintiffs have a right of clear title and thus deprive them of the full and free use and enjoyment of their property."

The Native plaintiffs have set out the limits they want for easements. They state that they should cover only the crossing of Native lands for international treaty obligations or for transportation, utility rights-of-way and access to adjoining state and Federal lands. The easements should not cover any point along the course

of a non-navigable body of water, the suit states, and easements on major waterways should be restricted to periodic points, not continuously. The suits also state the easements should not be made if federal lands can be used for a "speculative public purpose," and should not be reserved where the Natives and not the general public have used them. It also states the energy transportation routes must be identified as to use, size and location.

Doyon . . .

(Continued from Page 1) this adventure, it will be a job well done," he said.

The Kandik Basin is a virtually unexplored area north of the Yukon River and west of the Canadian border. State of Alaska figures estimate its speculative recoverable petroleum reserves at 1.5 billion barrels of oil and 7.3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, although no actual exploration was done until the Doyon activities got underway last year.

ANCSA workshops planned . . .

The first step, said Demmert, will be to invite teachers of land claims courses to a seminar to exchange ideas for a uniform presentation or "package" of information for the workshops. Then 10 teams of three members each will learn how to utilize the package and subsequently take it to the workshops, he said.

The objective under the proposal submitted to the postsecondary commission is to reach at least 900 persons. Each team is to conduct workshops in at least two rural communities.

While a number of courses and seminars on the settlement act have been held around the state since its passage in 1971, providing much useful information, there has been no consistency in these

(Continued from Page 1) presentations. Through the planned workshops, Demmert hopes to remedy this situation.

The conference on educational program delivery in rural Alaska—a small professional meeting—is tentatively scheduled for late fall. All postsecondary institutions in the state will be invited to send representatives who have been involved in rural education.

The various existing systems for delivering educational programs to rural Alaska—including correspondence courses, the university's rural teacher training program, rural community colleges, videotaped courses, and workshops—will be evaluated at the conference to learn their

strengths and weaknesses. The conferees will try to determine which systems work best in particular situations.

"We want a critical analysis, not a show and tell type of thing with each person pointing out the value of his particular program," said Demmert.

Believing that little of a substantive nature could be accomplished at a conference alone, Demmert plans to have participants prepare in-depth reports for presentation at the conference.

One possible product of the conference, he says, may be a handbook for postsecondary institutions providing educational programs for the rural areas of the state.

Alaskans in Washington . . .

(Continued from Page 1) with the help of her former sister-in-law, and is soon to be married again. Currently she and her husband-to-be are saving for an Alaskan vacation—her first in five years—and she's excited about it.

"I want to be there for berry-picking time," she says. "Those good salmon berries."

But she plans to return to Washington. She likes her work and the entertainment of the big city.

Hilda Woods first encountered "culture shock" as a student at Haskell and found it made her—a former Beltz cheerleader—uncharacteristically shy. More sophisticated roommates helped her regain confidence but when, in 1972, she came to D.C. to work for the U.S. Geological Survey, she had to start all over again.

"Luckily I had the most beautiful supervisor. She was a Washingtonian and she taught me everything," Miss Woods recalls. By the time another Alaskan girl came down to room with her, Hilda knew the city well.

"Every Saturday and Sunday I'd go touring. I had to test myself," she explains. And she

certainly passed the test because now she arranges tours for the senator.

While living Outside, Miss Woods has also managed to visit all the states in the union except Florida and New England and make it home over summer, as well.

This will be the first year that she hasn't returned to Alaska to visit. . . a hard decision because she wants to see her family, but she also wants to visit Europe to add to her education.

"Eventually I want to come home to help my people," she says, "but I really like to travel."

Although Barbara Ann Murphy's family comes from McGrath, originally, she was raised in Anchorage and the transition to Washington was not as much of a shock as if she'd come from a small village. In fact, she was sure enough of herself to drive across country to Washington by herself when she took the job in February.

Making new friends wasn't easy at first, she admits. "Here you just don't make really close friends for a few months."

"But I like politics and this is really the place to find out what's going on."

Bilingual policy . . .

(Continued from Page 1) It has a major impact on whether you're willing to work outside your environment; whether you're intimidated or threatened by it. If you understand outside in relation to our own environment, then I think chances for success are much better."

Demmert also favors recapturing a viable language that has been lost, such as his own Tlingit. In fact he initiated a bilingual course in Klawock in

1968. "In my judgment it (Tlingit) has got to be as important as English if retention of the culture is important, and in my judgment, it is."

As to the fear of some educators that equal time for two cultures will lower the quality of education, Demmert predicts it might well go the other way.

"Just because you take up bilingual-bicultural, don't think you have to give up quality," he insists. "Your kids might even become superior to monocultural children. There's substantial evidence that when kids learn one language they have an easier time understand when they become involved with another."

Demmert sees early childhood education as the key to better learning.

"To establish a proper education base you have to begin to build parent-based, early childhood education. People tell us that kids language ability is determined by the age of three. We wait till the schools start doing that and it's too late."

"We're (the bureau) looking at early childhood education as a major priority starting in 1978. That's the earliest I can implement it."

Money is always a problem, Demmert concedes . . . and so is the cumbersome of bureaucracy, but those who've watched Demmert's early work in Washington, believe he has a good chance of bringing substantial changes about within the system.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Department of Highways proposes the reconstruction of a 68 mile section of the Alaska Highway from the Tanana River at MP 1303 to MP 1235.

In compliance with Title 23, U.S. Code, an opportunity for a Corridor and Design Public Hearing for the Alaska Highway, Tanana-River to MP 1235 Project (RF-062-1(14)) is being offered at this time. Any person requesting a public hearing should contact the Department of Highways, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska, in writing before July 2, 1976.

The intent of a Corridor and Design Public Hearing is to afford interested individuals and organizations an opportunity to familiarize themselves with location and design details of the project plans as developed by the Department of Highways and to express their views and opinions on the features of these plans.

The purpose of the Alaska Highway Project is to upgrade the existing two-lane facility, including bridges over Beaver and Gardiner Creeks, by improving grade, width and alignment. This project will improve the efficiency of the road.

An Environmental Assessment Negative Declaration has been prepared and is available for inspection at the above address.

It is suggested that interested persons may wish to visit the Department of Highways on Peger Road to see the project plans before filing a written request for a public hearing.

Hesden D. Scougal
Acting Commissioner
Department of Highways
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CONSUMER LAW

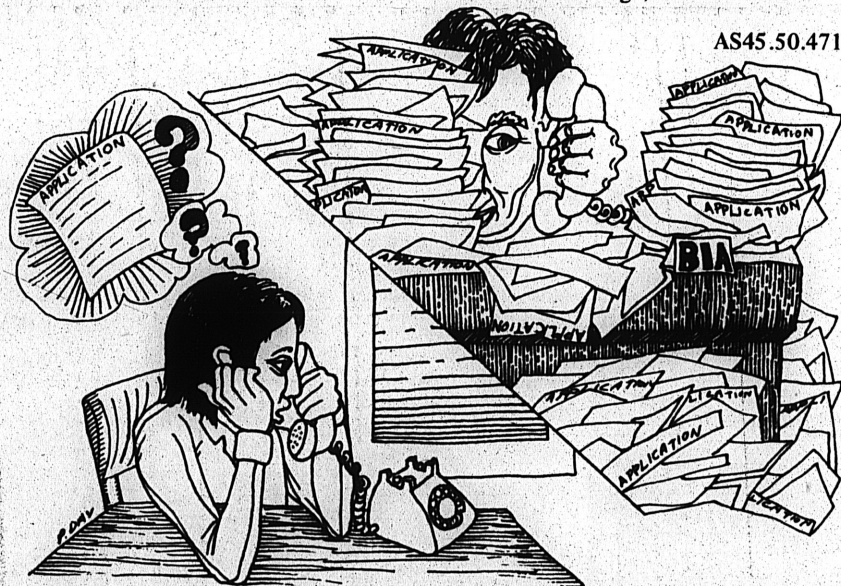
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IF YOU ARE AN ALASKA NATIVE

If you failed to enroll for benefits under the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act you now have until January 2, 1977 to do so. Anyone born before December 18, 1971 has a right to benefits under this law and therefore should enroll as soon as possible.

To enroll contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs Enrollment Office, listed in the phone book under United States Government. Anyone with applications filed after March 30, 1973 should also contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs to make sure that their applications are revived and not misplaced or lost.

—ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES