

EBEN HOPSON WINS DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION

In the end, out of a field of five, it was two of the state's well-known native leaders who vied for the Democratic nomination for a candidate to face incumbent Don Young in November's race for Alaska's sole seat in the U.S. House.

With all but five of the last bush precincts and absentee ballots from the Aug. 24 primary counted, Eskimo Eben Hopson, mayor of the North Slope Borough, leads Athabaskan Don Wright by a count of 5,603 to 4,473. Hopson, who is currently undergoing treatment in Seattle for throat cancer, had to campaign via television ads, while Wright declined interviews and did not

campaign to any noticeable degree.

Hopson's radiation therapy is expected to last another month and he has said he is committed to carrying out the prescribed treatments for as long as necessary. As to whether or not this will impair his campaign for the general election, one of Hopson's physicians reported that he is doing well and should be able to participate.

Alaska Democratic Committee Central discounted speculation that they would ask him to drop out of the general election, according to state chairman Gordon Evans. "The Democratic Central Committee is 100 per cent behind Eben's

candidacy and is looking forward to supporting him in the general election," said Evans.

In a telegram sent by Hopson last week to the committee, he said, "While it remains necessary for me to remain under treatment here until Sept. 20, I will be able to use my time well in Seattle to plan my campaign and develop the issues. I plan to campaign hard around the state after Sept. 28. Although the GOP did well in the primary's light turnout I feel 1976 will be a Democratic year in Alaska as well as throughout the nation."

Previously executive director of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Hopson, 53, has also

been a member of the territorial House and the State Senate before coming the vocal and visible leader of Barrow's large Eskimo community. Don Wright, 46, is currently owner of a contracting firm and former president of the Alaska Federation of Natives. He was an unsuccessful candidate for U.S. Senate, U.S. House and the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

The Eskimo mayor will be Don Young's third native opponent since the special election which put him in office to replace Nick Begich in 1973. Begich disappeared in an airplane accident with Rep. Hale

(Continued on Page 6)



MAYOR EBEN HOPSON

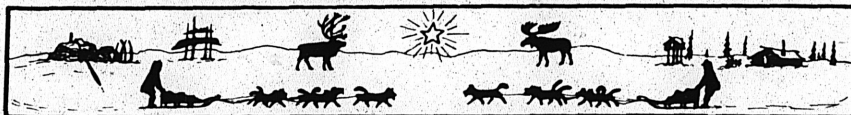
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Inupiat Pitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

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Tlingit
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LEGAL SERVICES WRITES CURRICULUM

By BETSY BRENNEMAN
Staff Writer

As the third Bush Justice Conference fast approaches, a major recommendation by native people, voiced at the second conference held in Minto in 1974, is alive and in its second phase of development.

In 1974 natives came down hard on the need to educate rural Alaskans in the American system of law and order under which they are now living and which is often in direct contradiction to traditional ways of justice. A recommendation was made that bicultural legal and criminal educational materials be developed to explain how the law works.

In response, Alaska Legal Services, with funding from the Alaska Federation of Natives/Johnson O'Malley, began writing legal education curriculum for use by three predominantly native communities, Bethel, Fort Yukon, and Selawik. Results were encouraging.

Now those materials are being revised, printed and distributed and teachers will soon be instructed in their use for programs in elementary and secondary schools statewide.

This second phase of the Legal Education Project got underway July 1 of this year with funding from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and under direction of Frank Barthel, curriculum developer and co-director.

Barthel, who taught land claims and on-the-job training in Bethel for three years before assuming responsibility for the

(Continued on page 12)

Easements discussed

By BETSY BRENNEMAN
Staff Writer

In preparation for the visit to Alaska next week of Interior Secretary Thomas Kleppe, Interior's legislative counsel, Ken Brown, paid a visit to the Alaska Federation of Natives on Tuesday, Aug. 24, to discuss the continuing easement controversy and hold-up of land conveyance to native corporations under terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Jake Lestenkof, AFN's vice president for land, reports that it was a "sensing meeting" in which Brown hoped to get an idea of AFN's attitude toward attempts at interim conveyances while a law suit, initiated by AFN and six regional corporations on May 4, 1976, is pending in the courts.

All conveyances were suspended when that suit was

filed and it is not known how permanent the hold order will be. Although this is a common procedural move of which AFN was aware when it filed suit, Lestenkof says the plaintiffs had hoped that the hold order would not come to pass.

Meanwhile, early this month, after special negotiations, an agreement between Interior and Arctic Slope Regional Corporations was reached allowing for the first major conveyance of nearly four million acres to

(Continued on Page 6)

The Tundra Times staff would like to apologize for the unordinary headline type-styles we've used in recent issues. Our headliner is being repaired and we've had to build headlines letter by letter. SG



SIXTEEN TRAILER HOMES were unloaded from a barge at Barrow on August 18. The trailers, measuring 70 feet long and 14 feet wide, had been stored in Kotzebue all winter when the barge could not make it to Barrow last summer. Costing \$55,000 each, five will go to the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and 11 to Barrow Utilities Inc. They will be designed for living accommodations, and have been especially designed for arctic use.

—photo by LESLIE K. NAKASHIMA

ANMC crisis report released

(More details of the current staffing crisis of the Alaska Native Center in Anchorage (Tundra Times, Aug 25, 1976) have been made available to the Tundra Times in a report prepared for distribution to the members of the Alaska Native Health Board.)

A special meeting was called Aug. 17th in Anchorage to inform the Board of the severity of the staffing problem as presented by the clinical staff of ANMC and the administrators of the Alaska Area Native Health Service

The report, titled "Background Statement on the Crisis at the Alaska Native Medical Center," was prepared for that meeting and states in the introduction, "The gravity of the present situation, however, is such that, unless forceful measures are taken and some relief is forthcoming, ANMC will soon cease to function effectively as a referral hospital, and in fact may have to substantially cut back or eliminate a number of basic services."

It goes on to outline the general nature of the problem as

a high workload, staff shortages due to a recruitment problem and a basically inadequate staffing level compared to other hospitals, and staff morale. As of August 13, 1976, ANMC had 45 vacant but funded positions, or 10.8 percent of the total authorized positions. However, the report maintains that even that level is 1/3 lower than the average at other hospitals of similar size.

ANMC reduced its bed capacity from 276 to 183 in 1973 due to staff shortages. There are now 170 beds being used with further

(Continued on Page 6)