

Sen. Stevens Criticizes Attacks...

be used as ammunition by Congressional opponents of land claims legislation. A better way of commenting, he pointed out, has been shown by AFN President Don Wright, who consistently calls the administration bill a good base from which to work for a better settlement.

Senator Stevens defended the "one corporation" provisions of the administration bill as a device to simplify the passage of land claims legislation.

Nothing, he insists, in the distribution portions of the administration bill, precludes native groups from organizing distribution through whatever format they choose - including regional corporations.

"After the settlement is approved," Stevens explained, "any of the procedural aspects can be changed."

Any unequal distribution plan, he explained, should be decided by a vote of the beneficiaries of the legislation - the native people of Alaska.

"If the Congress must decide the management of land claims money we get tied up in minutia," Stevens said. He pointed out that the historical precedents upon which Congress bases its power to legislate land claims settlements may preclude decisions to distribute benefits unequally.

Raps Edwardson...

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faster on native land claims as soon as the SST is over with. "Timing is important. Don't pass judgement until you can judge properly. Give me a chance."

After amending Edwardson's resolution to include Alaskan Senators Mike Gravel and Ted Stevens, the AFN Board passed the resolution, Begich told the Tundra Times.

This was the extent of Edwardson's "confrontation," he said.

Discussing the incident with the Tundra Times this week, on his first day out of the hospital after being hospitalized for several days with a kidney ailment, Congressman Begich stated, "there wasn't any 'confrontation'. You don't confront a friend. You confront an op-

ponent. However, he said, many Indian tribes have developed their own distribution schemes for land claims moneys. He cited the Alaskan Tlingit-Haida Indians who provide money for education and other tribes who have set aside settlement money for the education of their children.

Congressman Nick Begich, in an interview in Washington, D.C. replied to an Anchorage Daily News story last week which speculated on reasons why Congressman Wayne Aspinall (D-Col.) has announced he will omit Begich from the Conference Committee on the land claims bill.

Aspinall, who is chairman of the House Interior Committee, has the power to assign Congressmen from his committee to work on the important Conference Committee which reconciles differences between House and Senate versions of legislation.

"The real reason is that Congressman Aspinall has never put a freshman member of Congress on a Conference Committee in 13 years," Begich said. According to the Daily News story, Aspinall's already announced decision not to put the Alaskan Congressman on a Conference Committee is due to his support of the AFN bill (introduced by Lloyd Meeds) rather than Aspinall's own land claims bill.

"The world 'confront' has a little more aggressive connotation. You have a discussion with a friend."

Congressman Begich was one of the sponsors of the House version of the AFN bill - HR 4049.

Last Tuesday, on his way to Andrews AFB in Washington to catch a plane to attend economic development hearings in Alaska, Congressman Begich was taken suddenly ill. He was rushed to Andrews Air Force Base in severe pain for emergency treatment. From there he was transferred to Bethesda Naval Hospital and was not released until Monday.

As of Monday he was home resting and reported himself as feeling much better.

Self-determination...

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for the Alaskan governorship, is presently Deputy Director of NOAA.

The St. Paul Islanders have passed a resolution protesting the appointment of this non-native Seattle based Community Development officer for their island.

They call for the administrators of the National Marine Fisheries Service to allow them to replace him with a "person from either of our own communities or of Native extraction," according to Bourdukofsky.

"We feel that this is the only way to get at the grass root problems and start developing alternative programs to sustain our communities [St. Paul and St. George Islands] and its future. We need a person who is knowledgeable about our culture, local economic status, history and people.

"It is imperative that we have a resident Community Development Officer. Our circumstances and efforts will require a full time employee. An employee stationed in Seattle and coming in for a few days now and then would only add insult to our long standing injuries and injustices," according to the Village Council President.

At present, the villagers of the Pribilof Islands are beginning a vital self government and self determination campaign to change and broaden their people's economy.

Their traditional dependence upon the fur seal industry is diminishing as the industry suffers from attacks by Eastern conservationist pressure groups seeking to end the annual seal harvest.

To the villagers, beginning their efforts to escape from centuries of harsh white domination, the recent appointment is an insult added to injury. Their resolution follows:

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Aleut Community of St. Paul, on behalf of the unorganized Aleut Community of St. George Island that in keeping with President Nixon's policies on self-determination we be extended this chance to think and plan for our own future with the appointment of our own choice of a Community Development Officer, and that we urgently request removal of the present appointee whose headquarters are in Seattle, Washington and he be immediately replaced by an appointee of our own choosing."

Begich said he did not believe Aspinall's announcement was due to his advocacy of the AFN bill.

"I think it shows that he is serious about getting the bill out as he is already selecting the Conference Committee," Begich said about the decision.

Meanwhile in Juneau, Alaskan native leaders are meeting with Governor Egan and Attorney General Havelock to try to obtain a state government endorsement of the AFN land claims bill.

The State Rural Affairs Commission, composed of 48 mainly native rural leaders, held its first meeting in Juneau on Monday afternoon. The Commission, which is composed of AFN leaders plus many others, endorsed the AFN position. They then began discussions with the Governor and Attorney General to try to obtain state support for their position.

After three days of Rural Affairs Commission meetings, the AFN plans a board meeting for Thursday and Friday of this week to discuss specific AFN business.

Rural Roads...

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federal highway assistance legislation stipulates that the State of Alaska must provide planning responsibility and five per cent of project costs.

Although the state must designate projects and contribute toward costs, Senator Gravel is hopeful that the assistance appropriation made by the Congress will be used for construction of paved roadways in villages.

"This is an opportunity to take the villages out of the mud. It is the most significant project in each one of the villages," stated Gravel.

He noted that the villages had never before been included in such federal highway appropriations.

The Alaska Senator envisioned usage of the roadways for other purposes in addition to their role as thoroughfares.

"Part of the pavement could probably be used as the village airport itself in some cases," added Gravel.

"Perhaps a cul de sac could be incorporated into the design to allow for a village square. Now we can at least build a road so that they can be dry," he said.

Gravel indicated that a massive construction program could also be instrumental in creating employment in rural areas.

The decision, he said, to seek the funding came last August during a tour of the villages.

After landing at the airport at Quinhogac, located near Bethel, Gravel and his party difficultly negotiated the path between the strip and the village. Breathing laboriously, he then announced that roads would have to go into the villages.

The Senator indicated that the appropriation was largely a result of hearings held in Alaska last July by the Public Works Committee.

"If anyone questions the value of holding public hearings in Alaska... let me point out that the transportation hearings held in Alaska last July were in large part responsible for our success in getting the extra \$40 million in road building funds," stated Gravel.

Senator Gravel said that State officials have indicated to him that pilot projects in villages would be announced shortly. The Senator was hopeful that every village would be able to benefit from roadways construction projects.

Amchitka Blast...

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scheduled to date, certainly larger than the 1969 Milrow blast of 1.2 megatons.

A recent AEC environmental impact report on the Milrow blast reported no serious damage from that blast. This result probably prompted the decision to go ahead with larger tests on Amchitka.

On April 14, Gov. William A. Egan urged that public hearings be held in Alaska, under provisions of the 1970 National Environmental Policy Act, on the nuclear test.

The governor sent letters requesting such hearings to two Federal environmental protection officials - Russell Train, chairman of the Federal Council of Environmental Quality and William D. Ruckelshaus administrator of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

According to Governor Egan, the larger blast is code named Cannikan and its yield will be close to five times that of Milrow.

Cannikan will reportedly be a test of an enlarged warhead for the Spartan anti-ballistic missile. This is the long range version of the ABM designed to destroy incoming enemy missiles in the upper atmosphere. Its range is more than 400 miles.

Cannikan will reportedly be exploded at the bottom of a hole 6,000 feet deep and ten feet wide, the largest such hole ever dug for the underground explosion of a nuclear test.

The AEC began use of the Amchitka site on a deserted island in the Aleutian Chain when larger yield underground nuclear tests became impossible at its Nevada testing site - within a few hundred miles of Las Vegas and Los Angeles skyscrapers.

Amchitka, they said in their

report on the Milrow blast, has the advantages of being distant from human habitation and accessible by year round sea transport.

The Milrow blast, according to AEC, was a "calibration experiment" designed to determine if larger underground nuclear tests can be carried out on the island safely.

Alaskans have been concerned that the frequent seismic activity in the Aleutian chain could be triggered by such a blast - causing earthquakes or tsunami. This did not occur after Milrow, but the greatly increased power of the proposed blast has aroused new fears.

Other Alaskan political leaders have echoed Egan's concern and his call for environmental hearings. Among them is Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) who echoed Egan's call for environmental hearings.

Terry Miller, the Republican majority leader of the State Senate also supported the position.

"How can the federal government justify making private industry justify its possible ecological damage when the government doesn't conform to the act itself?" Miller asked. Other State legislators also back this position.

Alaskan newspapers have also echoed public concern. An editorial in yesterday's Anchorage Daily News quoted Majority leader Miller in his call for the same 1970 environmental guidelines to be applied to government projects and to private industry.

"In other words," the editor quoted Miller "if it's good for the trans-Alaska pipeline, it's certainly good for the federal government, considering the environmental risk being taken on Amchitka."

Subcommittee Hearings

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the severe difficulties of building conventional sewage collection and treatment facilities in permafrost areas.

Alaskan officials also concentrated attention on various definitions of "Indian communities or reservations", many inappropriate to Alaska, which are used to qualify communities for Indian desk funds set aside by many federal agencies.

Mr. Pavitt presented detailed testimony on the semantic and jurisdictional provisions of many federal laws which act to exclude Alaskan rural villages from various federal economic development funds, allocated for Indians in Alaska.

One problem in Alaska cited Alaskan Commissioner of Economic Development Irene Ryan, is the inclusion of military base employment, (which mainly consists of cut-of-state resident soldiers) in employment figures for small communities near military bases. This, she says inflates employment figures for the entire community and may exclude them from aid for depressed areas. Economic development provisions require average percentages of employment for any area requesting project funds.

Various officers from Fairbanks and the North Star Borough testified before the committee on the programs which were developed through Economic Development Administration grants, and how a new economic development act could better serve Alaskans.

The Economic Development Act of 1965, which established the Economic Development Administration and funds for planning, research and economic de-

velopment projects, expires this year.

With the information gained from two months of cross country subcommittee hearings, Senators hope to have a basis for analyzing the results of the former legislation and writing new major legislation.

"These hearings are the outgrowth of our awareness that a situation exists in the United States today which we can no longer tolerate. While this country has generally prospered over the past 25 years, there continue to be unhealed sores of economic stagnation and unemployment.

Despite our past efforts many, many Americans continue to live in or near poverty with little hope of improving their conditions," said Senator Montoya as he opened the Alaskan hearings.

Senator Mike Gravel, introduced the other members of the subcommittee to Fairbanks press at a breakfast meeting on the morning of the opening day of the hearings. The senators brought over 20 of their top aides whom they admit do most of the work in drawing up legislation, with them to Alaska.

According to Senator Baker, ranking Republican member of the subcommittee, Alaska's problems are peculiar because Alaska has "not only a depressed economy but a frontier economy."

Bills for extension of the 1965 economic development act are presently pending in the House, and a bill providing for a one year extension has been passed by the Senate.