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Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Alutsk Speak



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Fairbanks, Alaska

RALPH PERDUE DOUBTS SB152

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Leader Says Checkerboard Basis for Leases Might Be Better

Five Leaders Appointed to Draft Land Bill

Five native leaders, including two state legislators, have been appointed by the governor's land claims task force to draft a bill for settlement of the native land claims.

The five-man committee was announced in the State House last week by Reps. William Hensley, D-Kotzebue, and John Sackett, R-Huslia.

The two native legislators will serve on the group along with Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives; John Borbridge, first vice president of AFN and president of the Tlingit-Haida Central Council; and Joe Upicksoun representing the Arctic Slope Native Association.

Rep. Hensley told the House that it was hoped the committee would have recommendations ready in three or four weeks at which time it would be presented to another meeting of the task force.

Hensley said the five-man committee would incorporate ideas from last year's state land bill that asked \$500 million for compensation and 40 million acres of land.

The legislator said the group would also consult the recent report of the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska.

The report had recommended that the U.S. Treasury pay the natives of Alaska \$100 million with the provision that the government also give the natives \$100 million out of its income

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Training Grant For Alaskans

The Office of Senator Mike Gravel announced last week the approval of \$240,000 federal grant to train Alaskans to maintain and repair heavy equipment.

The training program is in connection with the transfer of surplus property to the State of Alaska. The property includes equipment such as generators, refrigerators and 4-wheel drive vehicles.

Sixty villages will receive equipment, through a program administered by the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurALCAP).

The equipment has been declared surplus by the Department of Defense and by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The training program is authorized under the U.S. Manpower Development and Training Act.



RHODA FORSLUND WEDS—Miss Rhoda Forslund of Kotzebue was married to Gordon Fox of Ft. Worth, Texas on Valentine's Day in Washington, D.C. As member of the board of directors of the Tundra Times, Rhoda worked as chairman of the invitation committee for the successful Tundra Times banquet last October 5. She was recently made an alternate board member by the newspaper's officials.

Rhoda Forslund of Kotzebue Weds Gordon Fox of Ft. Worth

Rhoda Forslund of Kotzebue and Fairbanks was wed on Valentine's Day to Gordon Fox of Ft. Worth, Texas.

The bride is the daughter of Clara Forslund of Kotzebue. She is a case worker in Congressman Howard W. Pollock's Washington, D.C., office.

Born in Candle, she graduated from Mt. Edgecumbe High School in 1965 and attended the University of Alaska in Fairbanks in 1965 and 1966.

While in Fairbanks, she was employed as a secretary by the

firm of Merdes, Schiabe, Staley and Delisio before going to Washington, D.C., in March 1968.

She is a member of the Fairbanks Native Assn. and an alternate on the board of directors of the Tundra Times.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Fox of Ft. Worth. He is a member of the United States Capitol Police.

After a honeymoon in New York City, the couple is making their home in Brandywine, Md.

Dr. Don Foote Dies of Cardiac Arrest After Car Wreck Injuries

Don Charles Foote, 37, died of cardiac arrest last Saturday afternoon at the Fairbanks Community Hospital.

Dr. Foote had been hospitalized on the preceding Thursday after suffering a crushed chest in an automobile head-on collision with a State Trooper's patrol car.

Foote had been driving a late model Volkswagon accompanied by three passengers when the

mishap occurred in the early morning hours of Thursday. The accident happened on "extremely icy" road according to the State Trooper James J. Hull who was the driver of the patrol car.

Injured were James Babb, his wife Bonnie, who suffered a broken pelvis, and Donald Prozesky. Trooper Hull suffered a chipped bone on his knee.

Dr. Foote, whose specialty was the study of human geo-

The state in recent days has been gripped by the feverish discussion of the Senate bill 152.

SB152 was written by Sens. Brad Phillips, R-Anchorage and John Butrovich, Jr., R-Fairbanks.

The bill sets to explain oil and gas leasing policies in

the State of Alaska and if passed, it would make the state honor all noncompetitively obtained oil and gas lease applications on land it selects from the federal domain under the provisions of the Statehood Act.

Although SB152 has met little opposition to date, some question seems to be cropping up here and there.

One of these came this week from Ralph Perdue, an Athabascan Indian businessman in Fairbanks and a native leader.

"I'm against the bill as it is right now," stated Perdue this week. "If they change it to the checkerboard system, then I would be in favor of the Senate Bill 152."

"I think," Perdue continued, "the most equitable solution is the checkerboard type of leasing."

They did it down in the Tyonek area. That way the leaseholders benefit and they will have an equal chance bidding for the oil-rich lands, then the state would also benefit putting out the other half on the competitive basis."

Perdue said that reportedly that the land freeze imposed by the then Sec. Stewart Udall will not be lifted until the federal government and the Alaska native people are completely satisfied with the land claims solution.

"The lease holders know none of these lands can be sold, or by any individual, or companies, until the native land claims is settled," Perdue said.

"I believe that one side of the issue has been heard and the state's side hasn't been heard—

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Sen. Gravel Addresses Joint Session on Claims

(Editor's Note: U.S. Senator Mike Gravel Feb. 27 delivered a speech before a joint session of the Alaska State Legislature at the State Capitol of Juneau. Sen. Gravel covered three subjects: oil, native land claims issue, and the development of a communications system in Alaska. Although the other two subjects are of paramount importance to Alaska as well, we have excerpted the land claims section of Gravel's speech having in mind the impending legislation on native claims by Congress probably in the near future. The excerpt bears reading because it comes from a senatorial point of view.)

Eighty-four years ago Congress said that the natives of Alaska had rights to the land they use and occupy. And Congress reserved for itself the right to decide how extensive those land rights were and how the federal government would deal with their disposition.

Congress, in my view, is finally prepared to make its decision.

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May Extend Land Selection Time

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A bill extending the time Alaska may select federal lands to a period equaling the length of the land

freeze was introduced today by Congressman Howard W. Pollock (R-Alaska).

Under the Statehood Act Alaska was given 25 years to select 103,350,000 acres.

Making up this total is 400,000 acres of land adjacent to communities for recreational and community uses and 102,550,000 acres of other public lands.

The State is now barred by the land freeze from making any selection.

The land freeze was imposed by former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall to protect the rights of Alaskan natives in land to which they laid claim. The land claims now blanket Alaska.

Pollock pointed out that his bill would allow the State of Alaska 25 full years of actual selection time.

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