

Doubts SB152 . . .

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what the state would do if it gets the money. I feel that the taxpayers have the right to know what this whole thing is all about," said Perdue.

Follow-Through . .

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from the Alaska Governor's office and U.S. Office of Education in Denver, Colorado on March 7-8 to discuss further dispensation of the Follow-Through grant.

The 1969 grant is a continuation of a State Technical Assistance Follow-Through grant which Hoonah received last year. The Hoonah School District, under the supervision of the District Superintendent and State Elementary consultant Margaret Justice, has initiated a school organization which allows for children's individual differences and learning abilities.

Classrooms are divided into multi-age groups; and skill-building subjects, such as reading, speaking, and other language arts, are tailored to each group's particular needs.

A new "grading" system, developed by the State Elementary Consultant, is being studied by the Hoonah teaching staff, school board, parents, and students. The new progress reporting system starts with student self-evaluation in the classroom, and solicits comments from parents and students, as well as teachers.

Dr. Don Foote . .

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Berit Foote learned to make parkas and mukluks having learned the art from the local Eskimo women. She then made the winter wear for her husband and for herself.

Don Charles Foote came to the Point Hope area back around 1959 having been employed by the Atomic Energy Commission when that agency was planning to detonate a series of nuclear blasts at Cape Thompson, 30 miles south of Point Hope, to create a harbor.

Foote was a member of a team of scientists doing environmental research around the Cape Thompson area.

"My job was to study the life and means at Point Hope," he once said. "That meant I counted families and their members, number of dogs, how many windows each house had and so on."

Dr. Foote said that he later lost taste for the job when he realized that some harm might result from the Cape Thompson nuclear blasts. He was later relieved of his job by the AEC.

That was the time he decided to leave Point Hope.

At the time of his death, Foote was a visiting associate professor from McGill University in Montreal and had been working with the Institute of Social and Economic Government Research at the University of Alaska. He held a PhD degree in geography.

He is survived by his wife Berit and a young son, Paul, his mother, Mrs. Lester H. Gale, and a brother, Joe.

Mrs. Foote arrived from Montreal this week to arrange for the funeral.

Draft Bill . . .

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from resource royalties.

The Federal Field Committee also said that the native people be given four to seven million acres of land. This idea has already met with opposition as too little as compared with the 40 million acres natives asked, a figure they agreed upon on a compromise last year.

"The taxpayers," he added, "are the ones—the little, little guys, are the ones that will be hurt."

Perdue said that as the situation stands now, the state would like to put the state selected lands on competitive basis, which means the state would sell to the highest bidder.

The local people, he said, want it on the noncompetitive basis, which means that it leaves the state out of the revenues.

"If the bill passes as it stands, the state would be out of revenue that goes into the general fund which could be used to build roads, finance schools, etc.," Perdue stated.

"I like to see people make money," he added, "but there are 300,000 other people that would also like to be millionaires."

Addresses Session . . .

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The climate in the senate appears excellent. The chairman of the Senate Interior Committee, Senator Jackson, is committed to a settlement. He firmly believes it should be a generous settlement and that it should come this year.

Let's analyze for a moment the importance of an early settlement—its importance to all of us, native and non-native alike.

Tens of thousands of Alaskans live in the rural areas of our state. They live in primitive housing. Statistically they are our nation's most likely candidates for disease and early death. They receive substandard education. Their traditional life, based on the use of the land for hunting, fishing, and trapping, is becoming less and less possible as a form of subsistence.

Each year tens of millions of dollars of state and federal funds are expended to assist native Alaskans. For the most part, the effort has been misdirected. The problems have been accentuated, not resolved. Those in the urban areas must pay taxes to sustain what is essentially an immoral and unjust form of paternalism.

Some progress has been made in recent years, most of it through the efforts of native leadership. They have forced us to work on ways for solving it. What they are saying is simply this: Give us a chance to lead our own lives, to be ourselves, to make our own way. We have problems greater than most people who live under the American Flag. But give us a grubstake and let us try to solve those problems.

The land claims are valid because the nation has an obligation to be just to the Alaska native. And it takes on even greater importance and urgency when we consider that the settlement, if it is adequate, should mean the end to extreme poverty in rural Alaska. It should mean the beginning of an opportunity for tens of thousands of Alaskans who at this moment are caught in a cultural and economic vice that has prevented them from sharing fully in the benefits that our society offers.

If the claims are not settled rapidly, here are the problems we will face:

—Title to land in Alaska will be in dispute at the time of our greatest opportunity for economic advancement.

—The Alaska native will miss the opportunity to be on the ground floor of that advancement and to grow with it.

—The frustration of failure will compound the problem, increase tensions and cloud our future.

—And all Alaska will suffer deeply.

The time is right for settlement. The Congress is prepared to deal with the question. The Alaska public favors a settlement and so does the national administration.

Many details remain to be resolved. The Federal Field Committee, under the leadership of Joe FitzGerald, has done an outstanding job in laying the groundwork for congressional action. That work will be translated into a bill that Senator Jackson plans to submit to Congress. I expect the Alaska Federation of Natives to propose another version of settlement.

And hearings and action on a bill should come quickly thereafter in the Senate.

I intend to work for the very best settlement that we can sell to Congress. I intend to devote a considerable portion of my time personally to this effort. I think that it is essential to understand that now is the time for decision and that the decision is likely to be the most just and honorable settlement the United States has ever made with any group of native Americans.

The critical element in a fast-moving situation such as this will be communications. The native leadership must remain in close contact with developments. It must be party to all decisions directly affecting a settlement. This will be costly, but there is no substitute for direct involvement by leaders of the Alaska Federation of Natives. They must be intimately directly involved.

And so I would ask this legislature to appropriate whatever funds may be required to assure that the native interest is adequately represented throughout the land claim negotiations in Washington. Whatever the cost, it will be but a fraction of the dividends paid by a just, reasonable and early settlement that satisfies all concerned.

I want to say a word, too, about the importance of the Alaska Federation of Natives to this settlement. The AFN has proved a responsible, worthy spokesman for the Alaska native. It has earned its place of leadership. And I think we should all recognize the importance of a single native voice representing the interests of the native. Many voices would only confuse the congress and give opponents fuel for their opposition. We must work to strengthen the statewide native organization. And from that strength we will achieve our success. . . .

Oft-disputed Hydaburg Cannery Being Put Up for Sale by Groups

Have you ever thought of owning a cannery in a picturesque Southeast Alaska fishing community? Here is your opportunity.

The Alaska Department of Economic Development announced that the cannery at Hydaburg is for sale. The complex, consisting of two large warehouses, boiler room, dock, a heavy machine shop, and housing units, can be utilized immediately as a seafood processing plant or could be converted to other uses either of an industrial or recreational nature.

Commissioner Frank H. Murkowski stated that the sale of the cannery is a joint effort between the Hydaburg Cooperative Association, the Department of Economic Development,

the Presbyterian Church, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

A special brochure is available with detailed information on the particulars of the sale. The brochure is available through any of the four agencies.

Hydaburg, a community of

230, is located 50 miles west of Ketchikan on Prince of Wales Island. It is in the center of one of the most productive fishing grounds in the world.

Firms interested in the facility should contact Fred Grant, Box 478, in Hydaburg for further details.

Letters to the Editor

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their way of life. He also came to see, as a result of the studies which he and other scientists conducted, that the proposed nuclear blast presented a danger to the residents and the plant life of the Cape Thompson region.

When the dangers of the nuclear blast were reported to the Atomic Energy Commission by Dr. Foote and several of his colleagues, that agency at first resisted their conclusions and proceeded for preparations for the blast. However, as a result of nationwide publicity concerning the dangers involved, Project Chariot was subsequently abandoned.

Another constructive result of the firm stand taken by Dr. Foote and other scientists was a study by AEC of radioactive fallout on residents of Anaktuvuk resulting from nuclear bomb testing. The evidence turned up by that study helped alert people all over the world to the hazards of continued testing of atomic testing of atomic weapons.

The above described episode in the life of the late Don Charles Foote is particularly appropriate to note this day—March 4, 1969—since this day has been set aside by many scientists in the United States in order to focus attention on how the "misuse of scientific and technical knowledge presents a major threat to the existence of mankind."

One of the last communications received from Dr. Foote by many of his colleagues was an announcement of the planned day of protest and a copy of his response (addressed to Dr. Steven Weinberg, Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in which he stated "I hereby pledge to increase my attempts to redirect scientific effort away from military research."

Since Dr. Foote is no longer alive to work towards that worthy objective, we his colleagues pledge to intensify our own efforts in that direction, and hope that this letter may serve to inform Alaskans of their stake in preventing the misuse of scientific knowledge. We hope also that note will be taken of the fact that individual men of principle—such as Don Foote—must often stand against powerful organizations in order to prevent decisions contrary to the welfare of mankind.

/s/ Thomas A. Morehouse
/s/ Donald Prozesky
/s/ James D. Babb
/s/ Jack Hession
/s/ Arthur E. Hippler
/s/ Jane Sutherland
/s/ Susan Foster
/s/ James W. Sullivan
/s/ Eugene D. Eaton
/s/ Thomas C. Woodruff

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