

# Meat Act of 1967

Speaker of the House, Jalmor Kerttula, announced today that the State of Alaska has complied with the requirements of the "Wholesome Meat Act of 1967." The Program is administered by the Alaska Department of Agriculture with meat laboratories, a State veterinarian, and a technician's staff in Palmer. Inspectors are also located in Anchorage and Fairbanks providing service to the whole State.

"The Alaska consumer can, now, for the first time, be sure of the wholesomeness of both Alaskan and Outside meat and meat products as a result of this new, very worthwhile program," Kerttula stated.

## Opposition Develops...

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an unexpected opposition developed relayed by amplified phone call from Sen. Ted Stevens in Washington, D.C.

Sen. Stevens told the group that if the controversy over the land solution plan in Alaska continues to rock the boat while the Senate Interior Committee is working to draft a native land claims settlement bill, that there was a potential economic disaster for the state.

The Anchorage Times and its columnist W.C. Arnold have been hammering at the AFN land solution proposal.

The Tundra Times last week commented in a front page editorial after pointing out the importance of the development that the conscience of the nation had been breached by good effort in public relations, commented:

"In the light of this important development, the feverish accusations and attacks might tend to work against the State of Alaska, its officials, and those who scream and clamor for ruination if the aims of the AFN bill are implemented..."

In his telephone remarks, Sen. Stevens pointed out the widening chasm that has developed between himself and Sen. Mike Gravel and the AFN on one side and Gov. Miller and his administration on the other.

Stevens, a Republican, refrained from making a frontal attack on his fellow Republican, Gov. Keith Miller, on the opposition to the land settlement plan by the AFN.

Two Alaska attorneys for the native organizations, Cliff Groh of Anchorage and Barry Jackson of Fairbanks, also talked to the Anchorage group over the phone. Both expressed regret over the differences of opinion.

Jackson said he was distressed over the disappearance of a united Alaskan front that existed when Walter J. Hickel was Alaska's governor. This unity, Jackson said, has disappeared since Gov. Miller took office. While governor, Hickel also said that the state should pay \$50 million as the state's share in the settlement.

Gov. Miller's latest proposal calls for only 6 million acres of land for the natives while AFN calls for 40 million. Miller, however, supported the \$500 million figure for compensation for lands lost by Alaska's native people.

Sen. Stevens reiterated his opposition to 2 per cent overriding royalty but admitted that this AFN proposal has had some support among the senators in the Senate Interior Committee.

## Nationwide PR...

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The Jack McKinney Show, on Channel 29, signaled the beginning of barnstorming series of appearances for the native leadership.

The pair was given 30 minutes, following an interview of the victim of a beating and preceding a lady who is engaged in the manufacture and sale of aphrodisiacs.

McKinney, the interviewer, displayed interest in Alaska's budding oil industry and in the position of Alaska Natives. His provocative questions revealed advance study of the land claims issue.

"Are you seeking reparations for Alaska Natives," McKinney asked.

"The Alaska Native land claims are different than the claims made by our Indian brothers of the 'South Forty-eight.'"

"In the continental U.S., the takings of land held by Indians came at a very early time. Alaska Natives assert rights to lands which can be measured in comparatively larger terms," Borbridge replied.

Notti feared that Natives would be pushed aside through rapid expansion in Alaska.

"What we want to see is, as the people are displaced, they should be able to receive compensation," he said.

Borbridge was quick to correct McKinney when the interviewer discussed the sale of Alaska by Russia: "That sale did not affect the status of the land."

The discussion shifted to reflection on the effort during organization of Alaska Natives and speculation as to the extent Natives will figure politically and economically in the future.

"Traditionally, the Natives who live in some 200 villages

throughout Alaska have been far removed from the cities, and from television and radio stations, and have been largely neglected," Notti noted.

"Now politicians are spending much time in the villages. True, much of the population is in the few larger cities, yet these are split almost evenly between Democrats and Republicans in elections. Natives often become the deciding factor," he said.

Since registration will be required beginning in 1972, Natives will have to start organizing and "making their political weight felt," Notti added.

McKinney asked Borbridge whether the land or money would be more important to Natives in the claims settlement.

"Both are important, although most Natives strongly feel money should not be stressed to the detriment of a land settlement," he stated.

Was there any bitterness because of the coming of the white man, McKinney asked Notti?

"No, there never has been. I believe this has worked against us. I think we welcomed non-Natives openly, and there has been exploitation," the AFN president stated.

Both leaders were asked to comment on the significance of the land claims, and the importance of a favorable settlement.

"Our brother Indians to the south have never been dealt with in fairness. Many of them feel, and hope, that the Indian will win one this time. We hope that this time the dealings will be more enlightened," Borbridge said.

"We hope the national conscience shall work in our favor, and that the Alaska Native land claims will become recognized as



OBSERVES 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY—David and Lillian Leask of Metlakatla are happily observing their 60th wedding anniversary held in Seattle on October 5. Seven of their eight children attended the happy event. David still works as a boat builder and carpenter while Lillian is a fulltime homemaker.

## 60 Years of Marriage—Octogenarians Observe Anniversary

The 60th wedding anniversary was observed last month in Seattle of David and Lillian Leask attended by their seven of eight children on October 5.

David Leask of Metlakatla, Alaska was born on October 17, 1884 and Lillian was born May 10, 1889.

David met Lillian and later married her on October 3, 1909.

David Leask worked as a boat builder and carpenter during his long life. He also taught manual training at the Metlakatla grade school during the depression in the 1930's.

He served as city councilman and later became mayor of Metlakatla.

## BLM Gets Out Booklet on 'It's Your Land'

The Bureau of Land Management is asking Alaskans and visitors to Alaska to become concerned about 285 million acres of Public Domain in Alaska and to answer the question "who cares?"

"Many do, but not everyone does," the BLM says in their new booklet "It's Your Land."

The purpose of the booklet is to bring to public attention the demands and impact of use on the public lands in Alaska.

In announcing the booklet, Burton W. Silcock, State Director for the Bureau of Land Management, said, "despite laws and the moral obligations of man to clean up his environment, he continues to pollute the air, the water, and the land. A point has been reached where we have to realize our resources are not inexhaustible. The destruction to our environment continues and choices will have to be made. Alaskans should have an opportunity to know what is happening to their lands and help participate in planning for the future."

an issue of national importance," Emil Notti concluded.

The appearance on the Jack McKinney Show is typical of the effort made by the native leadership to gain public support. The AFN leaders hope that, as their efforts intensify, public support for the native position will also intensify.

"He is still very active and works as carpenter and shipright during cannery canning seasons and plans to do so as long as he can, while mother works as a full time homemaker," commented Kenneth Leask.

The children are as follows: Ronald Leask, boatowner-fisherman. He resides in Seattle; Bert Leask, auditor and hotel accountant, Los Angeles, Calif.; Wally Leask, air controller, FAA, Anchorage, Alaska; Irving Leask, mechanic for the Pan American World Airways, Seattle, Wash.;

David Leask, Jr., career Air Force since February, 1946, presently stationed in Japan; Kenneth Leask, bridgetender, Seattle Engineering Department, Seattle, Wash.; Dorothy Leask, cook and salads, Washington Athletic Club, Seattle, Wash.; and Selina Brown, housewife, Portland, Oregon.

## Retarded Children...

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tarded children. Indeed there are multi-handicapped children at Hope Cottage.

A large percentage of the children in the three homes are Alaska native youngsters, Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts.

There is Gussy, a year old child from Alakanuk. Gussy is a little flirt. She casts mischievous looks at you, smiles and hides her face on the blanket in her crib.

Gussy could be taken as normal at first sight. She is engaging, sweet with a ready smile—but, she is also suffering from the curse of mental retardation.

There is a native child—a boy—who, except for a cruel parent might have been normal. He is one of the severe multi-handicapped children. Parental beatings had injured his brain.

The boy writhes. He seems oblivious to things around him. He grunts as if to escape something. Hope of any kind is extremely grim for this boy. Thanks to Hope Cottage, the boy gets the same thoughtful care as the other children in the home.

And then there is Marty. A disease had damaged his brain. Marty is a terminal case. Which means there is no hope for him. He is losing his strength daily. He can no longer eat by mouth and he is now being fed through his nostrils.

Two weeks ago, Mrs. Nancy Stewart said:

"Marty is not going to last. The doctors have given him 30 to 60 days to live. He can no longer swallow food. His muscles are deteriorating. The disease is paralyzing the parts of the brain that control his muscles."

All of the children in Hope Cottage are well dressed no matter their condition.

Two young native women, Elizabeth Benedict and Bridget

Alurac, work as assistant aides at the Hope Cottage. They bottle-feed tiny children and dress them. Elizabeth is from Emmonak and Bridget is from King Island.

"We have tried to give the children a homelike atmosphere here," said Mrs. Stuart. Despite the grimness of the young patients conditions, there is indeed a homelike atmosphere at the Hope Cottage. Smell of food cooking in the kitchen floats in the rooms.

Mrs. Stuart said that the State of Alaska was paying \$285 per month per child at the cottage, but at the other two cottages the payment was \$226 per child. She pointed out that at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute, the state was paying \$960 per bed per month.

"We are scheduling a visit to the cottages by the state legislators on December 1 so they can see the children and Mrs. Stuart and her staff," said Bob Halcro.

Halcro is a businessman in Anchorage who has taken interest in the homes of the retarded children.

State Rep. Genie Chance also works for the interest of the children with a group headed by Dr. Elizabeth Tower. Others are Dr. Carl Koutsky of the API who screens the children for admission to the homes; Chancy Croft, Helen Beirne and Mrs. Clara Salisbury.

Jim Thomas, a Tlingit Indian, who came with the visiting group to the Hope Cottage said to Halcro on leaving:

"It's hard to believe the conditions of those children. You can count me in. I don't know what I'll do but I'll try to do something."

Thomas is being employed by the Alaska Federation of Natives.