

REPLACEMENT SOUGHT—

Brayton Resigns

Larry Brayton, executive director of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RuralALCAP), resigned late last week.

Brayton resigned when the board of directors of the RuralALCAP postponed action on filling a number of vacancies. The board in postponing action said its reason was that there was insufficient information on recommended appointees.

Brayton told the board it was difficult to conduct the Rural

ALCAP programs properly without additional help. He said the vacancies were creating too large a workload on the present staff.

Resigning verbally, Brayton said to the board that he was going fishing. He has been out of town since then.

RuralALCAP is now advertising for a new executive director in Alaska newspapers. Brayton consented to stay on as director for a month. He served in that office for over two years.

Goldberg Reinstates . . .

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reconsider his decision to withdraw about a month ago.

He said that many others have asked him to resume his representation of the AFN. He said this included Sen. Mike Gravel, Sen. Ted Stevens, Congressman Howard Pollock, various other federal officials, attorneys and native and non-native Alaskans from all walks of life.

"When I was first asked to represent AFN, I stated that I viewed the land issue as a matter of great public importance and deemed my representation to be a form of public service in which compensation was a secondary consideration. Upon resuming this representation, I wish to reiterate these statements," Goldberg declared this week.

He cautioned that all who are concerned with the native cause must now put aside extraneous issues and get on with the job of presenting the natives' position in the most effective way possible. He said his colleagues and himself shall dedicate themselves toward this end.

"The important thing, of course," he said, "is not who represents the natives. The important thing is for the natives to be unified and to work with federal and state officials in arriving at a fair and reasonable settlement."

"I have confidence," he went on, "that the very able native leadership will maintain and strengthen the unity which the natives have already demonstrated and will take appropriate steps to achieve a fair resolution of the native's claim."

"I also have confidence in our country and I am hopeful that the final settlement will reflect credit upon the natives of the

State of Alaska and our nation."

Goldberg said that he and his colleagues have conferred with most regional counsel who represent native groups and associations and "it now appears that an effective team of attorneys will be able to work together in harmony to help the natives formulate and advocate their position on the land issue."

"And most important, the Alaska natives through the AFN, have recently demonstrated a great unity and singleness of purpose," stated Goldberg. "I believe the conditions now exist which make it possible for me to resume my representation of AFN and I am pleased to do so."

Goldberg sent his associates, Jay Greenfield and Peter A.A. Berle, to Anchorage last Wednesday to confer and resume work on the substantive issues with the elected leaders of AFN and regional counsel.

"I am aware that work has progressed during the period that I was unable to represent AFN and I expect that such work will prove very helpful," said Goldberg.

Emil Notti said from Anchorage this week that he was extremely pleased with the work the AFN board of directors has done. He said that the AFN was unified more than ever before.

"The board is to be highly commended," Notti stated. "It worked hard. I think the recent difficulties we encountered have a lot to do with us getting together. They had the unifying effect."

Boyko . . .

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publicly repudiate statements recently made in several of the news media by Ed Boyko concerning the affairs of the AFN."

The regional legal counsel was asked to concur in the public repudiation.

"The Federation considers such statements highly irresponsible, inaccurate, and damaging to the effort to settle the issue of native land rights," said the board.

"The AFN asks," the board continued, "that Mr. Boyko refrain from making further statements concerning AFN's efforts to secure a fair and just solution to its claims. The AFN recognizes its responsibility with which it is charged and intends to pursue the settlement to the best of its ability."

The board said that it was imperative that Alaska natives and legal counsel work together; that the AFN board expresses faith in the steering committee appointed to act in its behalf.

"Their dedication, judgment, and ability is appreciated, and recognized," said the board.

"The Alaska Federation of Natives," the board concluded, "is composed of diverse groups, but sharp differences of opinion are resolved after full discussion. The federation rebukes Mr. Boyko in his attempt to divide the native people through the use of innuendo and misinformation."



TUNDRA NURSES MEET—Joining nurses from around the state at the Alaska Nurses Association annual convention held this week at the University of Alaska were several of the state's rural nurses. Pictured from left are: Mrs. Jorene Hout of Bethel, Miss Louise Shores, the convention's

keynote speaker from Seattle. Mrs. Nancy Wetmore of Bethel, Mrs. Kay Haley, also of Bethel, Miss Thelma Thompson of Kotzebue, Mrs. Eliza Bridenbaugh of Bethel, Miss Margaret Semaken of Tanana, and Mrs. Ruth Humphrey of Barrow.

BP Reveals Slope Oil Operation . . .

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with casing, cemented in, tested, and capped, the rig is dismantled and reconstructed at another location.

BP's first well on the North Slope, Put River No. 1, is located 200 yards off Put River and four miles south of the Prudhoe Bay coastline.

The firm announced in March that Put 1 was its first discovery well.

In a press release the firm stated, "BP Oil Corporation announces that its first well in its Prudhoe Bay acreage in Alaska, Put River No. 1, has discovered oil in porous sandstone below 8,000 feet . . . BP regards the information obtained so far from its first well as "encouraging."

Spurred by the discovery, BP is drilling at a rapid pace in four other locations.

As newsmen viewed the activity at British Petroleum Rig No. 3, at Put River, BP Operations Manager explained the procedure.

Drilling had been stopped in order that the casing could be completed. The sections of drilling pipe, which functioned as an extended drive shaft in turning the drill bit, were stacked to one side of the rig.

A derrick man, standing on a platform sixty feet in the air, eases the casing into position so that it can be placed into the well. The casing, heavy lengths of pipe used to line the well, is positioned and welded to the section beneath it. It is then placed into the well.

After this is done, cement is poured down the casing. Drilling mud, actually a chemical used to stabilize pressures inside the well, is pumped into the well and pressure is increased so that the cement is forced up along the outside of the casing.

Once the casing is cemented in, the drilling resumes and the procedure is repeated.

As this is being done, mineral samples are secured from the well and tested and evaluated.

The entire effort progresses smoothly, the result of thorough training and extensive experience. Split-second reactions and precise timing is required from the entire drilling crew.

The operation is potentially dangerous and one mistake, whether originating from the roustabout (common laborer) or

the tool pusher (rig boss) can seriously endanger the lives of the entire crew.

Many of these drilling crews have worked together for a number of years. It is this situation which is most often blamed for the small number of jobs made available to Alaskan workers.

Drilling personnel are very often reluctant to work with anyone who isn't thoroughly trained and experienced. Since there are no training facilities available in the state for Alaskan workers, the overwhelming majority of oil workers on the North Slope are hired from outside of Alaska.

A number of conferences held on the subject recently failed to bring about a concrete solution. Major oil firms operating in Alaska offered to construct a training facility near Anchorage on the condition that the state would maintain it.

State labor officials explained that they were not willing to favor this agreement. They stated that such a facility would be filled for the first several years. Thereafter, they said, it would be empty and would place a financial burden on the state.

Other than training, BP has encountered a number of problems in drilling which are unique to Alaska.

Under very hazardous flying conditions, all supplies, men, and equipment are flown into the North Slope. Some indication of the size of this massive air lift can be seen at the Anchorage and Fairbanks airports.

The Fairbanks International Airport is now the home base of the largest Hercules cargo fleet in the world.

There are 47 airfields on the North Slope. Many of these, such as Prudhoe and Sagwon, have developed the capabilities of receiving jet aircraft.

The reason for the large number of airports is credited to the extreme competitive nature of the oil firms. Some sites, operated by competitive firms, are only two and three miles apart. Yet, they each have separate airfields.

The secretive nature of the operations is also seen upon arrival at Prudhoe. The first building seen after disembarking from the aircraft is the security office, which checks all personnel going

in or out of the sites.

One BP official speculated that security would further be tightened until September, after the lease sale in Anchorage.

Another problem which is unique to Alaska is the technique which will have to be developed for drilling in permafrost. Initially, the only factor which hinders drilling is the brittleness of steel equipment.

The real problem may come when the oil is pumped through the permafrost. This has never been done in any other part of the world before. When the oil is pumped from the deep pools, it is warm. No one is yet certain what further problems this may present.

All these factors combine in what has been the greatest single deterrent to oil exploration in Alaska.

Any other well in the United States costs an average of \$13 per foot. BP has estimated that the average cost of a well on the North Slope amounts to \$142 per foot.

Using this figure as a guideline, BP officials estimate that a 10,000 foot well could be over \$1.4 million.

There are several reasons why BP has decided to drill. The first is that the Alaskan oil would be free from import quotas placed upon foreign-produced oil.

Another is the hope that new developments in transportation in Alaska will lessen costs. If further drilling proves that there are sufficient reserves of oil, a pipeline across Alaska to Valdez will be begun.

Tests will soon begin with the 115,000 ton tanker Manhattan which has been specially strengthened for ice conditions. The world's first ice-breaking tanker, Manhattan will try to open a North-West Passage from New York to Prudhoe Bay this summer.

Perhaps the greatest incentive to BP exploration is the optimism about the size of the oil reserves. A recent BP press release stated:

"On the basis of the U.S. consultancy engineers De Golyer and McNaughton report on the Atlantic Richfield Humble discovery the productivity of the strata is such as to make the oil fully competitive with other U.S. oil."