

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." - Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Editorial—

Lack of Native Hire on Federal Let Contracts

There is a growing concern among the native people about the lack of native hire in government multi-million dollar contracts let in Alaska. One example of this is the huge Amchitka Island project of the Atomic Energy Commission where out of 252-man work force, only six native men were employed. Another one is the government contract at Tin City near Teller where only five native men were hired out of a work force of 80.

In a published report recently, office manager of the S. S. Mullin, Inc. has been heard to say that the company will undertake to hire locally so far as possible when that firm begins work on the big Snettisham hydroelectric program near Juneau. It is the hope of the native people that local hiring will include a goodly number of Alaska's native workmen. There are many of them who need and want jobs and many of them have the necessary skills for those jobs.

We hope, too, that the hiring percentage of native workmen by S. S. Mullen at the Snettisham project will represent a greater proportion of the work force than was reported to be true in the firm's subcontract at Amchitka Island. According to the Ad Hoc Equal Employment Committee there were only four native people out of work force of 177.

Owing to the fact that Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts live in widely scattered locales across the state, we do not expect every contractor's work force to be 20 or 25 per cent native—the ratio of native people to total population across the state—but we do think three or four per cent is appallingly low.

Bethel Meet Planned

The Association of Village Council Presidents, Lower Yukon and Kuskokwim Area, is slated to hold its annual conference at Bethel during the week of September 19 through the 23rd. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m.

AVCP president, Axel C. Johnson, requests that the villages send their representatives sometime prior to September 19. Since the organization has little funds, the villages are asked to foot the expenses of their delegates.

State Senator Ray Christiansen and State Representatives John Westdahl and George Hohman are expected to attend the conference. State and federal officials attending the conference are expected to hear stories of

hunting and fishing and opinions on land rights.

"...If you have stories of olden times relating to land, present them in writing," Johnson asks the delegates.

Villages with particular problems are also asked to submit these in writing.

Axel Johnson said that the conference would also require village peoples' opinions on the Alaska Federation of Natives' invitation to pay \$12 fee for membership. Johnson said this could be an important subject.

He also reminded the members of his organization who last year agreed to contribute 25¢ per family from each village. If villages have not paid up, he asks the

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Letters to the Editor

Mountain Village, Alaska
August 13, 1967

Dear Sir:

I am corresponding in hopes of getting assistance of some kind.

The Mountain Village people have been trying to get an airport for the past 20 years. Thus far, an airstrip has been constructed at 2400 feet by the Northern Consolidated Airlines.

The airport at Saint Marys (incomplete) is insufficient. The reason is because the airport is located on the highest peaks in the surrounding area. The prevailing winds and fog are constant, making it impossible for the planes to land. High winds are constant and fog is forever hovering over the area while the rest of the area is fair. The airfield is hurting the entire Yukon Delta due to the fact that the NCA mainlines are unable to land at least 98% of the time due to prevailing winds and low ceiling. For an example: Last winter, in one month, we had two (2) outside mail services. The F-27 was able to land only twice during the entire month.

The present airstrip we have at Mountain Village can be extended to at least 8,000 feet, with room for a cross runway of about 1½ miles along the Chuilnook slough.

Lengthening the airport at St. Marys will not help the weather to be better. It will only see our money go down the drain. Nor will it improve our mail service on the entire Yukon Delta. Also the airport is located in the windiest spot of the entire Yukon Delta. Ask any pilot where the most turbulent spot on the Lower Yukon is. Most likely, they will tell you that St. Marys is. Speaking for the people of the Yukon Delta, they will all agree that St. Marys is a very poor place to terminate the mainlines services. Except for charter services, who benefit by so many charter flights into the area due to the impossibility of a mainline making a landing at St. Marys for a connection of a bush mailplane, there is no other way to get out.

Also, the gravel here by the airstrip is available instead of a 3 to 4 mile haul as in St. Marys. We have a whole hill gravel reserve just for the digging and the weather is open at least 90% of the time.

If you have the assistance to give, we may get a sufficient airport for the Yukon Delta. Mountain Village would be centrally located for the area.

So, far, the Village Council has tried to get help from the area senator, our Representative, and our Congressman, but to no avail, so I'm turning to you.

Thank you kindly,
Matthew Bean
Mrs. Ignatius Beans

ASNA Moves to Protect Musk Oxen

RESOLUTION NO. 67-1
ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION
WHEREAS:

1. The domestic musk ox, through planned husbandry, offers a rational utilization of Arctic resources the consequent economic and social betterment of the people living in the North, plus a cash income both from the sale of its quiver, or underwool, and a home knitting and textile industry,
 2. The musk ox historically has been unable to withstand hunting pressure of any sort, and has become extinct in all areas where hunting was permitted: no sport is involved in its hunting: and its domestic value far exceeds any fees charged for trophy hunting.
 3. Transplantation of wild musk oxen into an area for sport hunting purposes where native people own herds of domestic musk oxen makes control of the herds, protection from hunters, and animal husbandry impossible, and prevent them from economic benefits to be derived therefrom:
 4. Nunivak Island, whose musk oxen are exotic to Alaska, having been introduced from Greenland, serves as a pool from which animals may be captured for domestication; and similar islands, uninhabited, exist in the Aleutians where additional pools of untended musk oxen can be developed for ultimate domestic use:
 5. The transplantation of wild musk oxen for sport hunting purposes contrary to the legitimate interest of the native people of Alaska, and detrimental to their economic betterment:
 6. The proper use of wild musk oxen is to reserve them for domestication and distribution by an experienced organization, such as the Institute of Northern Agricultural Research, (whose breeding station is currently located in College, Alaska), for use by the people of Alaska in animal husbandry:
 7. The Arctic Slope Native Association has been actively participating for the past two years in the project development of these animals in conjunction with the Institute of Northern Agricultural Research for commercial use in its tribal lands for the benefit of the indigenous peoples:
- Therefore: Be it Resolved, that the Arctic Slope Native Association, acting in accordance with its rights and privileges to control its ancestral territories and their development for the betterment of its people forbids for all time the hunting of any transplanted musk oxen in the region known as the Arctic Slope, and declared the musk ox to be, for all legal purposes, a domestic animal.
- The Arctic Slope Native Association, at a regular board meeting at Barrow, Alaska, at 8:00 PM, August 14, 1967, unanimously passed the above resolution.

Walton I Ahmaogak
President, ASNA

James Leavitt
Secretary, ASNA

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(Continued from page 1)

Humphrey returned from Vietnam.

The Vice President was presented with a beautiful ivory cribbage board made by Paul Buck.

Humphrey made a tremendous impression on the people of Alaska while he was here.

ASCAP MEETING

At the recent ASCAP meeting held in Kodiak, it became clear that if ASCAP is going to fulfill its mission to alleviate poverty in rural Alaska they are going to have to get more Natives from the target areas on the Board.

As the Board is now constituted, it has too many federal agencies and state agencies represented.

The federal agencies are defending their bailiwicks from encroachment by ASCAP and the state agencies are jockeying to fill employee slots with people of their particular political persuasions.

These articulate and persuasive government people are accomplishing their purposes and the rural Natives are the losers.

To become effective, the Board needs more rural people dedicated only to bettering the village conditions.

HOUSING

Mr. Ed Crittenden, Executive Director of Alaska State Housing Authority, prepared a good and workable housing plan for Native housing. He worked very closely with many Natives throughout the state while preparing the plan.

Our senators are optimistic that the senate will restore the \$1 million for housing that was cut from the House of Representatives budget.

HOWARD POLLOCK

Perhaps Congressman Howard W. Pollock should get on the radio and tell the people of Alaska, particularly the Native people, why he voted against HR 9029, which is Interior appropriations that contained money for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.