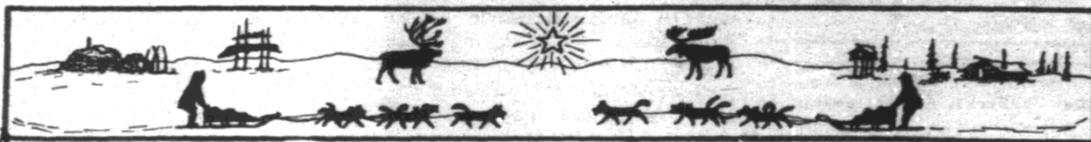


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Tundra Times



Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak

Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting
HAIDA
Yaunk yawn sue
Speak the absolute truth

Vol. 6, No. 183

Friday, July 11, 1969

Fairbanks, Alaska

NCAI ASKS INDIAN HEADS BIA

National Organization Suggests Pres. Nixon Appoint Wendell Chino

In a letter to President Nixon, released to the press July 3, John Belindo, Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) called for the immediate appointment of an Indian as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Belindo pointed out that "the longer your Administration fails to act on this matter, the more difficult will be the task for the incoming Commissioner to maintain any continuity with favorable programs and policies of Commissioner Bennett, who had the support of the Indian people."

Bennett, first American Indian to hold the position in recent times, resigned under Administration pressure on May 31, 1969. Since then, the office has been filled by an Acting Commissioner.

"For five months we have waited in vain, as one qualified Indian applicant after another has been interviewed, some perfunctorily, and then rejected," Belindo, a Kiowa-Navajo, said.

Expressing the fear that the parade of rejected Indian applicants is "a show in prelude to the appointment of a non-Indian Commissioner," Belindo asserted that the Indian community would universally regard such an appointment as a big step backwards.

Commissioner Robert L. Bennett of the Indian Affairs resigned his post. He was the first Indian (Oneida) to serve in that capacity in a hundred years.

Bennett charged that the Nixon administration has been indifferent to the Indian people. He said that the President and his advisors "have completely ignored the Indians up to now."

Before being appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Bennett served for several years as the Area Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska.

Naming Alonzo Spang, a Northern Cheyenne who is serving as Vice President of Navajo Community College, and Rev. Wendell Chino, Mescalero Apache who is National President of NCAI, as among the well-qualified Indian applicants, Belindo said, "We believe, in addition, that among those who have been interviewed, there are others well-qualified to hold this office."

(Continued on Page 4)



WALRUS HUNTERS COME HOME—Cape Prince of Wales walrus and seal hunters are pulling up their big umiak (walrus skin covered boat) out of the Bering Straits. King Islanders use such seaworthy skinboats to make their annual trip from Nome to King Island, a distance of about 75 miles out in the Bering Straits from Nome. There they hunt for walrus, their traditional staple

food. The large skinboats are about 30 feet long. Whale hunters of Point Hope and other whaling communities use smaller, easily paddle-propelled 24 foot umiaks for whale hunting and which are more maneuverable for quick action if the occasion calls for it.

ROBERT KOWELUK Photograph

Potpourri of Land Matters—

Goldberg, Reg. Counsel Relations Fine, Senate Committee Hearings

The relationship between the Arthur J. Goldberg law firm and the Alaska regional counsel has developed into a very good one.

"The problems that we have had have been largely resolved," stated Barry Jackson, regional counsel for Tanana Chiefs along with Tom Fenton. "Real working team is developing."

—The Alaska Federation of Natives is in the process of retaining a national advertising a-

gency to put together a national publicity campaign with funds to be initially supplied by the Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc. of New York.

—The AAIA is prepared to commit \$100,000 to support the Alaska native land claims settlement through national publicity.

—The Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee under the chairmanship of Sen. Henry M. Jackson wants to have hearings in August. The hearing dates have not been set however. The hearings will delve into the native position in relation to the plans of legislation on land claims

in Congress.

—Arthur Lazarus, general counsel for the AAIA, is making the initial draft of the proposed amendments to the land bill.

—The AFN has asked for a meeting with Gov. Keith H. Miller to explore the state's position on the native land claims. The meeting has been set for next week but the dates have not been firmed up.

—"I have approached Charles W. Rhyne, former president of the American Bar Association and close friend of President Nixon, to associate him as Washington counsel for Tanana
(Continued on page 6)

Asks Gov. to Freeze Tanacross Lands

Governor Keith Miller was requested Tuesday to "freeze" the disposal of state lands within the Tanacross and Mansfield village claim area. The request came from the firm of Jackson and Fenton, attorneys for the Tanana Chiefs.

"We are sure that you are familiar with the recent letter of the village of Tanacross to Secretary Hickel concerning their complaint that the federal government has allowed the state to select and possibly gain title to land that was and is occupied by the natives of Tanacross and

Mansfield, including land used for subsistence purposes, graveyards, and even the village of Mansfield," the request stated.

"The people of Tanacross and Mansfield continue to claim title to all of these lands," continued the attorneys.

"At the request of Chief Andrew Isaac of Tanacross and the Tanana Chiefs, this is a formal request to you to 'freeze' the disposal of state lands within the Tanacross claim area and at the very minimum the disposal of 'open to entry' lands near Tana-
(Continued on page 6)

CBS to Film Tanacross Land Matter

Chief Andrew Isaac told the Tundra Times yesterday that a news team from the Columbia Broadcasting System will arrive in Tanacross on Sunday to cover the Tanacross Land Claim issue.

The CBS News Team of Mike Wallace and Paul Lowenwater had been assigned to Alaska to tape stories on the oil development of the North Slope.

Chief Isaac said that the television commentators had been alerted to the Tanacross land issue after reading a story in the Tundra Times.

Ketzler Discredits New Republic Article

The Alaska Native Land Claims issue has received considerable national publicity. One article, recently published in the New Republic, drew comment from at least one Alaskan native leader.

Alfred Ketzler, President of the Tanana Chiefs and Alaska Federation of Natives Executive Board member, was concerned about statements in the article that indicated the natives had

already lost their land rights and that a land settlement would amount to nothing more than an extension of the poverty program.

"We have not lost our land, ours by law, and will not lose it until Congress expropriates ('extinguishes' is the polite legalese)," Ketzler said.

He also commented on those who view the settlement as another approach to solving the

poverty problem.

"To those who view this problem as one of alleviating poverty, and not involving property rights, our demand for some \$10,000 and 800 acres per capita seems unreasonable, even outrageous. So we were disappointed to see Mr. Henniger overlook our legal right to our land, for it is the keystone to a fair, generous, and just settlement of our land claims," Ketzler said.

"Native leaders in Alaska have given great attention to the structure of the settlement, the means of administering the land and money. Indeed the concept of the development corporation is ours, though we would divide the land and money among three levels of business corporations, local, regional, and statewide, in keeping with the pluralism of American society and economy,"
(Continued on page 6)