

# Gov., ASNA . . . Tyonek to Furnish Legal Assistance

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ASNA representatives would return to Fairbanks immediately after the meeting to attend the Board meeting of the statewide Federation of Native Associations.

The outcome of the Hickel-ASNA meeting will probably determine to what degree the issue will be taken up by the Federation of Native Associations at their Fairbanks meeting.

The issue is over Gov. Hickel's efforts to offer for sale leases on lands claimed by native groups. The acreage was previously withdrawn from sale by former Gov. William A. Egan after native groups protested.

Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall suspended issuance of oil and gas leases on the North Slope after protests in late September, but has not yet responded to a request by ASNA that he remove the State's tentative title to the lands.

Shortly after the first of the year ASNA contacted the Governor to arrange the coming meeting.

The Tyonek Indians have agreed to furnish legal assistance to the Arctic Slope Native Association at their meeting with Governor Walter J. Hickel in regard to the controversial leasing of native claimed lands.

The meeting between Gov. Hickel and ASNA representative is slated to take place January 17th in Juneau.

Hugh Nicholls, executive director of ASNA, made the request to the Tyonek Indians

## Fisheries Course At Kotzebue

John Doyle, Fisheries Specialist with the University of Alaska Division of Statewide Services, will offer a special course to fishermen in the Kotzebue area January 23 through 27.

Doyle has taught classes on commercial fishing in coastal towns of Alaska, for the past four years. The course includes handling of gear and nets, better methods of fishing, and information on different kinds of fish as well as handling them for marketing.

In Kotzebue the classes will be held each evening from 7:30 to 9:30 beginning Monday January 23. A room is being provided for the course by the B.I.A. at the Kotzebue School.

Any fisherman who wishes to learn more about fishing on a commercial basis can attend the classes by paying a registration fee of \$5.00.

Doyle will be in Kotzebue on Saturday January 21, preceeding the class to contact fishermen in the area.

for legal assistance for his group at the meeting. The Tyoneks have agreed to send one of the tribe's attorneys, Stanley M. McCutcheon, of Anchorage, to the session.

## Native Dept. . . .

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such a Department as a means of solving native problems.

The Tundra Times has learned that several associations have already made such recommendations to the Governor, but reportedly favored the appointment of a high level executive assistant to the Governor to crack the whip over existing departments having responsibility in rural areas of the State.

The recommendations of the groups were not made public to give the Governor a chance to review their suggestions prior to bringing down legislation concerning such a department. They also pointed out that the matter would be seriously considered at the coming Board meeting of the Federation of Native Associations.

Concern over the proposed Department of Native Affairs seems to center around the idea that it would soon become "just another department," and that other state agencies might try to shirk their rural responsibilities off on the new native agency.

The alternate proposal for a high level assistant to the Governor to handle native problems would allegedly place the "whip-hand" right next to the Governor and above the commissioners of the various departments.

## Continuous Use of Lands . . .

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occupied public lands in accordance with its policy, may maintain a bill to cancel a patent illegally issued to another if the land was occupied. This Cramer case had never been recognized by treaty, act of Congress, or Executive order.

Felix Cohen, in commenting on this case, said: "What was involved was an area claimed by Indians by right of occupancy initiated before 1859. Yet the Supreme Court held that the Indian right of occupancy, even though it had not been formally recognized, was not terminated by a subsequent statutory grant. . . . The Department of the Interior, in 1904, issued patents to the Central Pacific Railroad Company, on the assumption that there was no reservation or other encumbrance to prevent the passage of full title to the grantee. Yet the Supreme Court, in 1923, held that this departmental action disregarding Indian rights was erroneous."

(to be continued)

## SUBSCRIBE !? Kodiak Group

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ing the meeting.

Carter also said an invitation had been received from the Statewide Federation of Native Associations inviting KANA to send a delegate to the Board meeting scheduled for Fairbanks Jan. 19 and 20.

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## Rep. Pollock . . . FORGETS . . .

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development if allowed to drag. Since Alaska receives 90% of the net revenues from federal mineral leases in the state, pollack said the freeze could cost the State \$18,277,000 in revenue during the next six years.

Pollack said he has asked Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall for an appointment to discuss the situation as soon possible after Jan. 16. He said Gov. Walter J. Hickel of Alaska has indicated a willingness to participate in the meeting with Udall.

Pollack also indicated he he was proceeding with preparation of proposed legislation to establish an Alaska Native Land Claims Commission to hear and adjudicate the aboriginal land claims, subject to final review

by the court of claims. "We must have speedy action," he said. "We will cripple Alaska if we don't."

## Federation . . .

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chairman; Shirley Brogden, secretary; Carol Bahr, secretary; and Ruby Tansey, secretary.

Lekanof said the first day of the meet would be taken up with a review of constitution and by-laws, and other tech-

The second day of the meeting will be devoted to legislative recommendations of the Federation of Native Association.

Key items likely to be taken up at the two day session are the current controversy over the lease-sale of native claimed lands by Gov. Hickel, his proposal for a Department of Native Affairs, and the controversial proposal by the Atomic Energy Commission to establish an underground atomic test site, or sites, in Alaska.

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must cross wide open flats, along coastal areas, and across long stretches of sea-ice.

The job of staking is generally done through contracts to various villages, and responsibility several years ago was removed from Rural Development and placed with Highways. However, the Highway Department has never yet been able to carry out the function.

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