



FIGHT VIA PROXY—As the AFN board looks on, AFN President Don Wright holds up Friday's edition of the Anchorage Times, predicting a battle between Governor Egan and the AFN.

ANICA Stability...

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on the goods they will buy each year. With this money, ANICA manager Don Dorsey and his staff in Seattle purchase needed supplies and arrange for shipping, mainly on the BIA ship North Star's two trips per year.

The money with which villages purchase their goods pays off what is left on last year's goods. A sudden increase in an expensive commodity such as oil, with no extra funds to pay for the first year, could bankrupt ANICA.

At their Board meeting last week in Anchorage, ANICA directors spoke with representatives of Standard Oil, Alyeska Investment and the Alaska Federation of Natives seeking loan money to allow them to pay for the first year of increased oil usage.

"In the past, too often, a village or an agency will build a clinic, a larger school or other public building. Then, come September, they want to know where they're going to buy their fuel oil. Our orders were in long before and we don't have the surplus capital to get it up there for them," explained Dorsey.

Alaska Village Electrical Cooperative, with its small generating facilities, faces the same problem with extensive new housing. The new AFN houses will require a great deal more electricity than those they replace. This means more generating capacity, more capital outlay, more fuel to power the generators.

Another threat to ANICA is that the North Star, the BIA supply ship might be replaced by commercial means of transportation.

According to Don Dorsey, two commercial supply lines with military contracts on the Arctic Coast are looking at native villages as a potential market. With the decrease in Defense Department sites in Alaska, native cargo could turn a barely profitable trip into a very profitable one.

According to Bob McLean, Director of the Liaison Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Seattle there has been no plan to put the North Star out of commission.

At the present time, reports McLean, his operation is undergoing a periodic review by auditors from the General Accounting Office, which oversees all government agency finances. At

present, he says, there has been no final report, although the auditors will compare costs of the North Star with commercial freight lines.

Despite its long history of native self help, ANICA is not very well known in Alaska. Mainly, this is due to the firm's main office being in Seattle, rather than in Alaska.

"Many people in our villages still don't know that they own their own village store," explained the manager. "After twenty-five years, they still don't know who they buy their goods from."

While it is completely self-supporting, ANICA has been seeking some funds to pay for business training for its store managers and to cope with the tremendous volume of business expansion in the villages will bring. Since the food stamp program was introduced in Alaskan villages, there has been a tremendous upsurge in the amount of goods native villagers must stock.

Despite setbacks, in the past year, ANICA has expanded to buy a large commercial store in Bethel and build new stores in several villages in 1971.

Within two hours, Governor Egan was in the room with the AFN board who greeted him with a standing ovation.

PLASTIC FLASKS are on sale at the Howard Johnson restaurants on the Massachusetts and Pennsylvania turnpikes which have painted on one side a drunk Indian together with a few encouraging remarks to motorists to drink. Irate tourist Andrea Rothberg has written the two highway commissions and NCAI asking withdrawal of the flasks from sale on the grounds of "public safety and intercultural sensitivity."

Miss Olympics...

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In fact, she felt so bad that she planned to spearhead a drive in Nome to raise money for Mary's plane fare and expenses.

As Thursday evening rolled on, Nome's two radio stations competed in their spot announcements of the need for money to send the half Eskimo beauty queen to Reno. Donations, they said, should be taken to City Hall. Otherwise, the lovely Nome girl would be disappointed and there would be no Eskimo girl in the contest.

By the dozens, Nome citizens contributed their tens and twenties. When Mary woke Friday morning, almost \$700 had been collected. Friday afternoon, she boarded the plane to join Joanna Harper, Miss Fairbanks Native Association to travel to the exciting week long Indian convention.

Conference Committee...

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conference committee meeting will not go well.

Last week it was revealed that a room had been reserved for Thursday, Nov. 18. The date of the meeting has been moved up to today.

The Conference Committee will be working to straighten out the differences in the Senate and House Native land claims bills they passed recently. One of the major differences is expected to be on land selection

priorities.

The Alaska Federation of Natives and the State of Alaska each wants the right to select lands first.

Governor William A. Egan, when he met with AFN in Anchorage last weekend, told the statewide group that he would back everything AFN asks in the bill but not AFN's desire to select lands first.

Intense lobbying efforts are being made by the 14-member AFN delegation on the Conference Committee members.

AFN Delegation...

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veto the bill."

In a special appearance at the AFN Board meeting on Friday, Governor William A. Egan reaffirmed that he, as representative of the State, was committed to support the House of Representatives bill land provisions through a prior promise made to Senate Interior Subcommittee Chairman John Haley.

According to the provisions of the House bill the natives would make a first selection of 16 million acres followed by the state completing its selection before the natives could choose their remaining 24 to 26 million acres.

Under the Senate version, the natives could select 30 million acres contiguous to villages and another 10 million acres before the state could withdraw any more land.

The AFN is asking for Governor Egan's support for their selection priority. AFN leaders expect the House-Senate conference committee to complete its work after the Thanksgiving recess.

In the past week, the Governor and Attorney General John Havelock have repeatedly said the state will oppose any 'free floating' native selections. Also, the Governor has continued to insist he is committed to support the House version.

"I support you on all other issues," the Governor told the AFN board on Friday after he arrived at the meeting to a standing ovation from almost 50 AFN board members, lawyers, consultants and native observers crowded into the tiny BIA conference room in the Kaloa Building.

According to AFN President Don Wright, the natives should not panic if the conference re-

port does not come out before Congress adjourns for its six week recess in December. With an election next year, Congressmen and Senators will be under an increased pressure in the Spring and the natives cannot lose by waiting a few months or a year longer.

According to the 5 page memo Don Wright wrote to Gov. Egan, one of the natives' chief concerns is that the state would select land sought by natives during any delayed selection and that the acreage would be overrun by "carpet-baggers"—newcomers seeking to develop mining and other resources.

"Native villages will fight and resist state selections which infringe on their land claims areas with every means at their disposal. In effect, the title to virtually all of the state of Alaska would remain clouded for an additional 12 years," Wright said.

"In addition," the memo said, "They (the natives) will place tremendous pressure on the Secretary of Interior and the land use planning commission to withdraw and 'reserve' large blocks of land to protect their delayed selection rights. This will in effect constitute a 'de facto' continuation of the land freeze."

"A false sense of urgency" might force the state to select unwisely and deprive the natives of the opportunity to select economically viable land.

After Egan's meeting with AFN directors Friday, Wright said he believes the Governor may reevaluate his position. At the meeting, board members pressed the Governor to find out how firm his commitment to the House provisions would be.

NOTICE OF CATALOG MISTAKE

OUR OCT., 1971 SEWING SKIN CATALOG LISTS BLACK BEAR RUFFS.

THAT IS AN ERROR

According to the Attorney General and the State Department of Fish and Game, it is now, since July 21, 1971, unlawful to sell black bear skins, any part of a black bear skin or any product made from black bear skins, within the State of Alaska. This law applies to imported skins as well as Alaskan skins. Any questions about such a law, please ask your representative or state senator.

DONALSON COMPANY
P.O. BOX 845, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510