

# Secretary Signs Alaska Plan

By MARGIE BAUMAN  
(Courtesy of Anchorage Daily News)

ANCHORAGE — A nine-member Alaska plan construction opportunity policy committee has been informed to organized and seek funds for a voluntary minority hiring plan for Alaska.

Robert Willard, executive director of the Alaska Human Rights Commission and chairman pro-tem of the Alaska Plan Construction Opportunity Policy Committee, said the committee will hold its first meeting Thursday in the Bureau of Indian Affairs conference room in An-

chorage. Willard said the U. S. Secretary of Labor, James Hodgson, signed the Alaska Plan into effect without modification and cited this as a major step which "indicates that Washington officials are in concurrence that the plan will work."

Willard said he is also optimistic that Governor William Egan will sign an executive order requiring all state projects to fall in line with the Alaska Plan, a 35-page document establishing guidelines on how minority workers will participate in construction projects in Alaska.

The plan calls for each of

the building and construction unions to bring their respective minority group membership total to at least 28 percent.

## Survey ...

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connection with village schools. Nickolas, who spent a winter in the village last year, felt that even adults could benefit by having a place to work off energy.

Eliza Jones brought up the problem of special education teachers for children in the bush.

Mrs. Jones has a partially blind daughter of 15 who must now live away from home in Anchorage a good part of the year to get special education. "There is no school for the deaf and blind in Alaska," she said.

Linda Williams of Allakaket thought that "the delegates who came in from the bush had a lot to say about what they wanted."

Among the things they wanted were classes in the Athabaskan language and Athabaskan history. Linda told how some of the older people in Allakaket came into the schools, told stories, and taught the little children Athabaskan.

Colleen Redman who brought in some of the delegates, felt the survey had great value.

"It was all tied to the learning of the child. The group themselves chose the topics and voted on which they wanted to discuss."

There was some criticism from Native leaders that the Utah group knew nothing about Alaska or Alaskan Natives, and that the survey was attempted without adequate planning.

Most of the participants agreed. The research people, they said did not know "there was a difference between Tlingit and Haida, for example."

Nevertheless, Dr. Ken Linsey who conducted the session in Fairbanks received praise from most delegates. He was described as a "pretty understanding, a bright guy."

One participant said: "He didn't know anything about Alaska but he helped us word our ideas right."

A local educator pointed out that quite often in taking a survey, the people too close to the problem have a hard time keeping their own opinions out.

"By not knowing any of their background, the people have to offer Dr. Linsey more information. They have to contribute."

No one seemed to have an explanation why the meetings were arranged in a rush. It was obvious that the people from Utah were unfamiliar with the vast distances one has to travel in Alaska to cover the state.

The Native people, nevertheless, came from all parts of the bush. They put in the best of their ideas. It remains to be seen how the State Board of Education will act on their expressed needs.

## RCA DDD ...

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Like all else in Alaska, the phone system is a blending of the old and new, and the advanced, ultra-model DDD must tie in with a system that has survived a flood, a fire, and just general wear and tear.

If you have any complaints about telephone communications in Alaska, you might try calling your Congressman in Washington. But please, wait until next week.

(For full story on RCA's new service, see page 8.)

# Barrow Projects Eyed ...

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of serving alcohol — to be decided in a "wet-or-dry" entry on the June 20th ballot.

**WATER & SEWER SYSTEM**  
A preliminary report on water and sewer facilities was presented by Linck-Thompson Company, contracting to the Public Health Service.

The Linck-Thompson plan focuses on a dam for holding fresh water, located at one end of the present lagoon near Barrow. A similar dam was constructed at Kotzebue, and does provide water for that city.

However, because organic material was not stripped from the ground before water was impounded, Kotzebue's water is not pure.

The Barrow reservoir will have the organic material stripped at a time of year when erosion cannot occur, and a filtration plant will also process the water.

The Director of the United States Indian Health Service, Dr. Emery Johnson, has stated a commitment to financing water and sewer facilities in Barrow.

Once the reservoir, pipe lines, pumping stations and utlitors are installed, Barrow would be expected to operate and maintain the system.

## AIRPORT

The Federal Aviation Administration reported on new electronic equipment the airport is installing this summer. A directional finder, localizer, distance measurement equipment, and remote control devices will enable pilots to land when the cloud ceiling is as low as 300 feet.

Jack Chenoweth, Barrow's City Manager, displayed plans for the \$3.6 million airport terminal building. City elections scheduled for June 20th will determine whether Barrow people will finance a bond issue to complete funding of the facility, and whether the village will permit alcohol to be served.

If either issue receives a negative vote, the terminal building will not be constructed.

## GAS AND ELECTRICITY

Robert Gaidys, Director of Planning and Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, discussed the Bureau's plans for a power loop connecting the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory (NARL) and Barrow in case of emergencies.

Electrical power and natural gas requirements for both NARL and Barrow have been increasing faster than anticipated.

Last winter, gas well pipes blew up, causing an emergency situation. "The need is here now," Mr. Gaidys said, "but the BIA cannot undertake it until 1975."

The Office of Naval Development said the south Barrow gas well has an estimated life of 8 to 9 years. Winter demand for gas in 1972 may not be met, so a new well is planned to meet the short range demands of Barrow and NARL.

Dr. Max Brewer, former Director of NARL, felt the gas wells were being produced too rapidly, with the result that the water pressing out the gas was entering the pipes and freezing.

"Overnight," he said, "there would be zero gas." New developments in housing and the high school will require increased amounts of gas. Mr. Gaidys said that new gas turbines might be included in the new high school to meet power demands.

## REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

The regional high school (to be completed by 1976) will be designed for 500 students. Included in the plans will be a student center, swimming pool, kitchen facilities, and a gym.

"A total community facility," Mr. Gaidys said, with a design "built around the wishes and desires of the people."

The high school will be located about a mile from the present school near the lagoon. Plans may be ready February, 1973, for Barrow people to approve. Dormitory space is not included in the plans, since the Bureau of Indian Affairs feels the boarding home program will be used.

## ROADS

Road building in Barrow for the next five years will be very active. A highway engineer from the BIA Juneau Office will be visiting Barrow in June to examine the road situation.

The BIA's road budget has been tripled — they now have ½ billion dollars for the next five years, or approximately \$100,000 a year. The budget is for all reservations in the United States.

## HEALTH

Irving Igtanloc, Chairman of the Arctic Board of Health, was one of the few participants at the meeting who had specific demands. The decrease in the hospital's in-patient load and the increase in out-patients, Mr. Igtanloc felt, necessitates four new examining rooms, ten more living units, and additional staff.

He cited the 1½% birth rate and the influx from other villages to Barrow for employment and education as factors in the hospital's load.

## NAVY

Commander Yoshihara, Facilities Officer for the Office of Naval Research, explained the Navy's projects in the Barrow area. One and a half million dollars is allocated for a two-year clean-up of Naval Petroleum Reserve lands near Barrow.

A new power plant with four gas turbines will be completed September, 1972. An incinerator for trash and sewage, costing \$1.86 million, will be completed at the same time.

A sewage treatment plant south of the new laboratory will be finished in June of 1974.

Future construction includes expansion of the laboratory with mess hall and additions to the laboratory for \$2.5 million, a utlidor for \$1 million, and 125-man bachelor quarters for \$3 million.

Commander Yoshihara focused attention on operation and maintenance of the incinerator. "I wonder if all that participate in its use, understand that they'll have to pay for its use," he said.

Fifty million cubic feet of gas for annual operation will be free, but maintenance and operation costs are estimated at \$118,000 yearly. Barrow's use of the incinerator was estimated at 67% or \$79,000 yearly.

When asked what the city's budget was, Oliver Leavitt, Treasurer for ASNA answered: "Thirteen whales!"

"That's why you need a borough," Mr. Fred Paul added. Stanley Brust of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency felt that since garbage and sewer facilities benefitted the community more than any individual, the community should bear the cost of incinerator use.

In the closing moments of the meeting, Jack Chenoweth pointed out the new importance of ASNA in development and planning, and asked that a member of ASNA be seated on the Board for its next meeting, November 1st.

Robert Arnold accepted the idea, and ended the meeting by re-stating the purpose of the Committee as "the improvement in the quality of life for the people of Barrow."

# Native Homestead ...

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of the Interior so that lands claimed by the Natives could be noted on land office records and withdrawn from other entry or claim.

Why four separate parcels? Well, unlike the homesteaders of the mid west and the west in the 19th Century, the average Alaska Native doesn't spend all of his time farming a single 160-acre plot.

Instead, he may spend part of the year in his village, part of the year fishing; part in another location picking berries; part of the year hunting and perhaps another part trapping in order to make his living.

He needs a home base for himself and his family near each of these activities.

From time immemorial most of the Native population has been living this way, and since the white man came they have lived this way on public domain land.

The Native Allotment Act provided a way for the Alaska Native to obtain title to his land. But by 1969, only 212 had been able to perfect their claims.

In the late 1960's, it became obvious that the Congress intended to repeal the Native Allotment Act and replace it with the Land Claims Settlement Act.

This would allow Native corporations to acquire large blocks of land, but would limit individuals to acquiring only their primary place of residence.

Other benefits were available for the individual under the Native Allotment Act that were not available under the Land Claims Settlement Act.

In some instances this included the right to the subsurface, as well as the surface of the land.

The BIA knew that there were thousands of Alaska Natives living on public domain who had not taken the opportunity to file the necessary papers to protect their subsistence lands.

Most of them didn't know that once the Land Claims Bill was passed, they would lose these lands.

So, working with the Office of Economic Opportunity and other agencies, in 1969 the BIA began a village-to-campsite campaign throughout Alaska.

Representatives of the OEO's Community Action Program personally visited thousands of Alaska Natives. They brought the forms necessary for recording land applications and helped the Native fill them out.

Their problem was complicated by the fact that most of the land in Alaska has not been surveyed. So, in place of the usual legal subdivision description of Natives' lands, these workers used hand drawn maps or tracings of quadrangle maps and located the property in question with an "x".

For more than two years,

they continued this search and assist mission. By the time the Land Claims Settlement Act was approved, they had helped more than 8,000 Alaska Natives prepare applications.

In Anchorage, the BIA Agency Office faced other problems.

The Realty Branch, with a staff of four, had the task of processing and filing the land applications. At the rate the work was proceeding, this office might have been able to finish the job in the early 1980's — assuming it didn't do anything else.

However, with the enactment of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, December 18, 1971, immediate action became necessary.

An appeal was made to superiors in Washington for help. The problem was presented to the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C. B. Morton.

The first solution considered was hiring additional help for the Anchorage BIA Agency or detailing -BIA personnel from other offices to this Agency. But it was difficult to get enough volunteers to go to Alaska.

In addition, the cost of transportation and per diem for BIA stateside personnel to Anchorage would have been prohibitive.

It was decided to bring the mountain of paperwork to the Bureau people in the lower States. Washington arranged with the BIA's Sacramento Area Realty Officer to make space available in the BIA Sacramento office.

BIA Alaska Realty personnel moved to Sacramento late last February. With them they brought their applications and hand drawn maps.

The Washington Office took care of the details of transferring qualified technicians from BIA offices in Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, Montana, Minnesota, Washington and Oklahoma to Sacramento on temporary detail.

Arrangements for office space, supplies, transportation, and housing for the task force were made by the Sacramento office.

This crew, averaging about 25 persons working at any one time, was busy transferring the information obtained in the field onto the quadrangle maps of Alaska, marked as carefully as possible, and completing the forms to be filed with the Bureau of Land Management.

Last month, the Sacramento project was completed.

The Alaska Natives that have valid allotment applications and comply with the 1906 Native Allotment Act will be able to continue to live as their ancestors have for centuries, fishing, hunting, picking berries and trapping on land they can — legally — call their own.