

Anchorage ANB Backs Funding Legal Services

ANCHORAGE—The Anchorage Camp of the Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB) called on Governor Keith H. Miller to honor a \$40,000 appropriation request of the Alaska Legal Services Corporation.

In a telegram sent to Governor Miller last week, the Anchorage ANB said that Alaska Legal Services Corporation has proved its worth to those within our society who are deprived of legal representation in civil matters due to economic problems and ALSC should continue to serve the more indigenous in the future.

In making the announcement, Anchorage ANB President Paul Young said that it was unfortunate that the Alaska Legislature failed to act on the appropriation request of Legal Services and that he felt it was incumbent upon the Governor to finance the supplemental salaries of the administrative officers of the program.

Under existing Federal law, OEO-sponsored programs such as Legal Services cannot pay beyond an annual salary of \$15,000. Upwards of that amount, the State would have to provide the supplement and this is what is entailed in the \$40,000 request from the Governor's contingency fund.

The ANB Camp also said that copies of the telegram and the press releases would be forwarded to each Native organization in the entire State.

Study Group . .

(continued from page 1)

mile, 1 billion dollar, 48 inch pipeline from the Beaufort Sea to the Gulf of Alaska means that the Federal and State agencies have to make a special effort for the orderly development of this pipeline system on all lands in Alaska.

Stipulations will be needed for the right-of-way, gravel burrows, airports, access roads, pumping stations, river crossings, and dwellings to minimize the effect of these on natural resources.

Before any of these can be permitted, the provisions of the right-of-way must be prepared as soon as possible. The stipulations, as developed, will have an effect on the design of the pipeline and its supporting facilities.

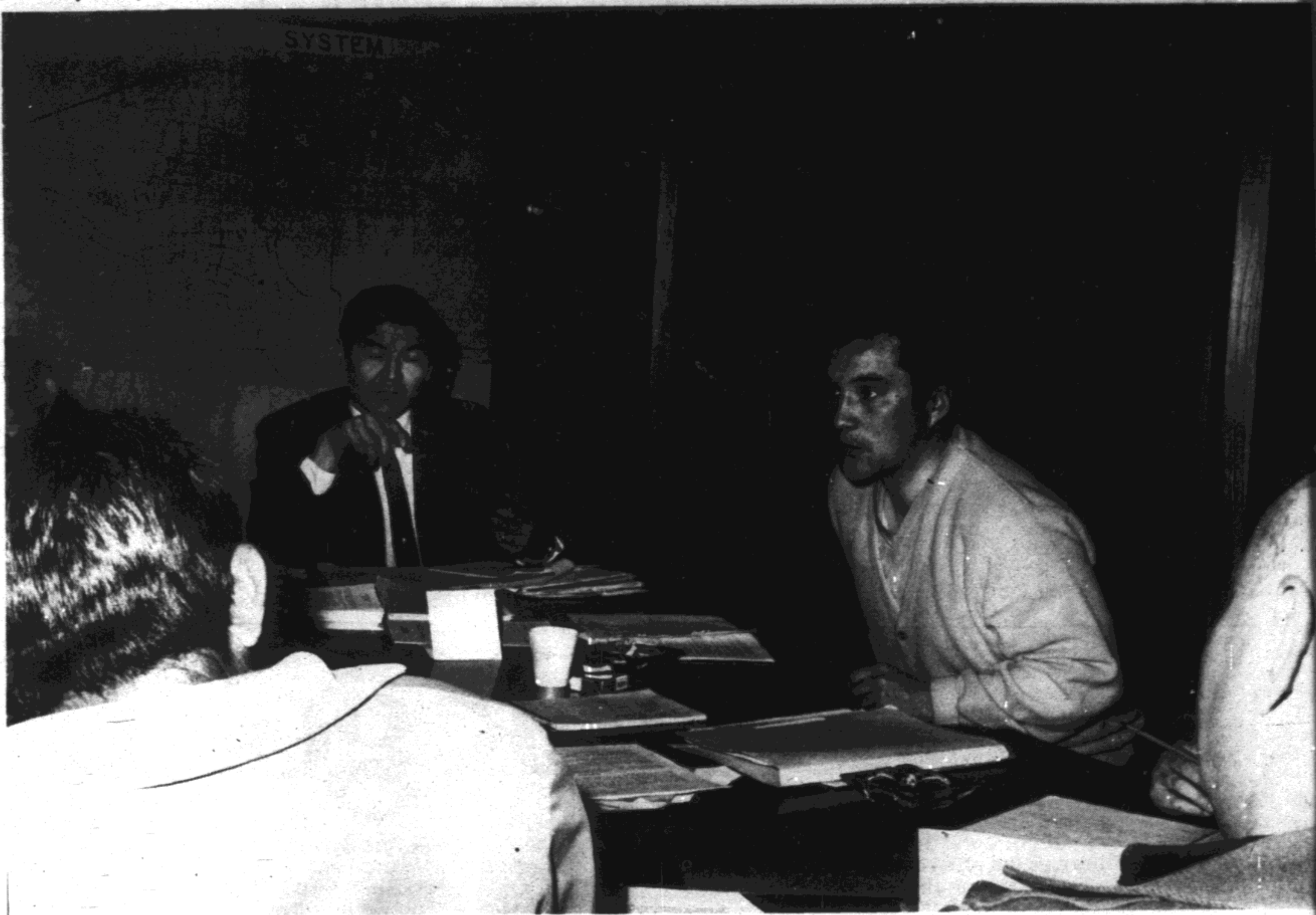
In order to expedite this priority project, technicians from the Bureau's Portland and Denver technical centers have been assigned to Alaska. Specialists in the areas of fisheries, forestry, wildlife, Arctic ecology, soils, and watersheds are on the team.

The study group will be working closely with the State Department of Fish and Game and the State Division of Lands.

Additional coordination will be made between the Study Group and the U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Sport Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Commercial Fish, Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, the National Park Service, and military personnel in the state.

The objective of this effort is to develop stipulations and provide guidance for the prevention of damage to the frail Arctic lands and its resources. Conservation, development, protection, and management of the Federal and State land and water resources and their uses will be the basis for the stipulations.

Meetings are planned for user groups to discuss the stipulations as they are developed and as are foreseen on the lands in the state.



OUTGOING PRESIDENT MAKES POINT—Rep. John Sackett, right, Rep. of Ruby, emphasizes a point during discussion of North Slope hiring practices at the Tanana Chief's Conference last weekend in Fairbanks. Looking on, at left, is Ralph Perdue of

Fairbanks. Perdue was a contender in the organization's presidential elections. Succeeding Sackett as President of the Tanana Chief's Conference is Alfred Ketzler, of Nenana.

—THOMAS RICHARDS, JR. Photograph

Food Stamp Program

Participation in the Food Stamp Program has increased steadily since the expansion of the program began on July 15, 1968, said J. Scott McDonald, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Health and Welfare.

In April 1969, 2,679 households containing 11,368 persons paid \$73,221.89 for Food Stamps worth \$206,797.00.

Position Paper . . .

(Continued from page 2)

my notions of Democracy and Local Government and the honest way.

A few historic facts on land rights will highlight and sharpen some of the problems and solutions confronting us. In the fourth century, a shaky Roman empire invited the war-like Burgundians from Northern Europe to settle in that part of Roman Gaul which is now Southeastern France next to Switzerland: In Burgundy. They were to help fight off their more barbarous cousins from the North, and for this service were given by contract one-third of the arable land and large tracts of empty mountains with all rights—to which arrangement the Romanized Celtic inhabitants had little to say.

A hundred years later, my German-speaking forefathers fought their way up from the Baltic into the Roman province of Helvetia north of the Alps. They were a rough, barbaric and heathen lot who kept their common law and language to this day. By right of conquest they took two-thirds of the land: They did not kill off the old inhabitants, nor did these "barbarians" take ALL the land.

The point I am trying to make is that in my particular opinion, Alaska's early inhabitants are far too modest, not to say timid, in their claims. It is only two hundred years since the Russian invasion, one hundred years since the American intrusion, and at this moment over 90 per cent of the population are Natives living on over 90 per cent of this state's land. They should have ALL of that. I mean it. Mineral rights and all! And cash compensation lost or ceded. A settlement along these lines would put America on the map as a symbol of justice and hope for all of this earth's downtrodden.

This position should be the beginning of any bargaining. I realize that although Alaska's natives comprise a quarter of the state's inhabitants, they constitute a very small percentage of America's total population. And it is the power elite of America who wants and needs Alaska's riches. What compromise could be deemed reasonable? The Natives in their collective wisdom and effort will have to decide this, with some of us later inhabitants cheering from the sidelines.

Half of the State's land with all mineral and oil rights for the Natives and at least one quarter of the mineral and oil rights on the balance, or one quarter of all the land with all the rights (proportional to the population) and half the rights on the balance, would seem worth talking about. All this balance with a few hundred million dollars for compensation over a period of five to ten years.

You might ask me: "Why all this interest and 'generosity' of yours?" Disregarding moral aspects or my sense of justice based on historic studies, let me mention a motive to easier understand: Self-interest. I am convinced—and in this I am not the only non-native Alaskan—that our problems of welfare and continuing rural, alien and Native, poverty will only be eliminated as festering tax-eating sores if the Natives themselves are enabled to massively remedy these ills.

My association with Natives over the years, and especially this last year in connection with OEO programs, has shown me that the Natives are perfectly able and willing to do this.

ALFRED KETZLER ELECTED . . .

(Continued from page 1)

natives the minimum wage for work performed by non-natives at three times the salary.

Assistant Director of the State Division of Employment Security Earle Costello told the delegates that such conditions do indeed exist, but the state is often powerless to act because the companies do pay the minimum wage scale.

Another problem with hiring practices which was discussed was the replacement of native workers by incoming workers from outside of Alaska. The replacement is often made without prior notification by the seismic companies, it was said.

A committee was appointed to act on behalf of the Tanana Chiefs in negotiating hiring practices with the oil companies.

One member of that committee told the Tundra Times yesterday that it would try to seek an injunction against the companies as a last resort if the dispute could not be resolved in negotiations. Funds are currently being raised for such an injunction.

In discussion of the native land claims settlement, several points were considered in the legislation now before Congress. The Chiefs were concerned about several of the provisions, or lack of provisions.

They were disappointed that the bills have no provision for granting traditional burial ground sites to the Indians. They sought protection for the few sites left which haven't been vandalized or extensively excavated.

Several members of the group indicated that they were unhappy with the idea of a statewide board with overall control of funds granted in the settlement.

They instead proposed that regional and village boards be given more authority and more funds. Most of the delegates felt that there was little assurance that the Commissioner of the proposed Alaska Native Commission would be native, or that his powers could not be checked by the vast majority of Alaska Natives.

One of the strongest objections was the provision which would abolish the majority of Indian Reservations in the state.

The two which would be most greatly affected are the Venetie and Tetlin Reservations.

The Venetie Reservation, which includes Arctic Village, encompasses 1,400,000 acres. The Tetlin Reservation includes 768,000 acres.

Under proposed legislation, all but 23,040 acres would be lost in the settlement. A resolution was presented and passed by the Chiefs which requested that the reservations be retained.

Another resolution which was considered and passed was one which requested Governor Keith H. Miller to provide \$40,000 out of the Governor's Contingency Fund to finance a portion of the Alaska Legal Services budget, matching \$500,000 in federal funds.

It was thought that Alaska Legal Services fulfills an invaluable function in providing legal assistance to the poor of Alaska.

Also under consideration during the two-day conference were the Tanana Chiefs Constitution and the ratification of the AFN Constitution. It was recognized that the major issue before the conference was the settlement of native land claims, which was not explicit in the constitution.

Other than this factor, there were no major changes in the document.

The AFN constitution was never ratified by the Chiefs, and this was a major item on the agenda. Despite rumors that the Chiefs might refuse to ratify the document, or place conditions upon ratification, they accepted the document in a display of unity.

The new president, Alfred Ketzler of Nenana, is traveling this week and meeting with other native leaders. Elected as Executive Vice-President was Larry Peterson, of Ft. Yukon.

With all major business concluded, the conference was adjourned Saturday afternoon. The steering committee, appointed to act as an interim body met Sunday and has decided to pursue investigation and possible legal action on the hiring policies of the North Slope oil and exploration firms.