

Congressmen for McCarthy Express Interest in Alaska Native Situations

The Democratic Congressmen representing the McCarthy Steering Committee expressed particular interest in the problems of Alaskan natives at a hearing in Fairbanks last Tuesday.

Congressmen Henry Reuss of Milwaukee, and George Brown

of Los Angeles are visiting key cities throughout the United States to hear what the people want included in the Democratic Party Platform.

The hearing was started by Dick Farris, a teacher for the Community Action Agency. He said that Alaska's greatest resource was her people, but they were held back by inadequate and unsuitable teaching facilities.

Barry Jackson, a Fairbanks attorney representing the village of Minto, gave the congressmen a brief history of the land claims issue, and pointed out that the federal government had been avoiding it since 1884.

As an example of the problems arising from this neglect, he quoted the case of Minto, which the state government had attempted to include in a recreation and hunting area. The

congressmen asked many questions on this and other matters.

Mrs. Hal Beals and Jerry Ivey expressed the natives' dissatisfaction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and suggested that the state government could do a better job.

Several speakers expressed concern over the Vietnam war, and the congressmen agreed that the war was draining much needed money from welfare programs, and that Senator McCarthy wanted to correct the situation.

Prof. Ed Webking, who moderated the hearing, summed up and added that the most serious problem facing the country now was lack of faith in the government, and he expressed the hope that the next President would change this situation.

Assures Votes

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appreciation for the excellent cooperation rendered by the BLM officials in assisting the State to see that the fire fighters will vote in the primary election.

Requests HHH...

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at death for natives is 34.5 and our crude rate of death is three times that of whites in Alaska, at 9.6 deaths per thousand. Our principal causes of death are accidents, influenza and pneumonia, and diseases of early infancy...

"The health problem of course, is one aspect of a total problem, clearly related to poor sanitation, low economic standing and the apathy of people in power who feel that all the native is good for is a vote and somebody to justify asking Uncle Sam for more funds.

"We need help—and perhaps this suggestion may be one avenue of improving the health conditions of the villages."

Kivalina...

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of the Kivalina people.

"They are against a large taking of char," Hensley told the governor. "The river is like a cache to the village of Kivalina—when the caribou are scarce, they have fish. When the seals are scarce, there is fish. They do not want to think that one day the fish may not be there—and this may happen if a commercial taking occurs and the resource depleted beyond normal reproductive capacity."

The people of Kivalina, Hensley said, have fished the river for generations and the fish keep coming back.

"There have not been accurate counts on the Wulik by the game biologists. Therefore, I request that if there has been an announcement consenting to a 200,000 pound taking, it be rescinded.

"I feel that the amount to be taken for sale should be left to the people of Kivalina. They will sell that amount that they will not use. After all, perhaps they, more than anyone, know how much fishing can safely be done," said Willie Hensley.

Rep. Hensley said in private communication with the Tundra Times that the Kotzebue Fisheries Coop will be willing to work with Kivalina people to determine the amount the village would wish to sell.

"But what I'm afraid of is a lot of pressure from commercial fishing—and subsistence fishing both, one the resource and it's ability to come back," Hensley said.

Olympics Successful...

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evenings. The crowds approached 2,000 at each of the performances.

Although number of events were reduced from former performances, the response they received from the audiences was enthusiastic, bringing out the fact that the Olympics is one of the most popular events in Fairbanks.

Seal skinning contest, one of the most popular, was missing this year. Water sports was cancelled. The number of men performers was cut down because some were out firefighting.

Reduced or not, the unique program proved its worth to Fairbanks. Tourists and dignitaries from far away places came. Life and Time Magazine photographers were present as did the National Geographic Magazine.

Barrow dancers once again proved their superlative routines and walked away with the first place rating. The MacKenzie Delta Drum Dancers once again gave fine performances and very ably represented Inuvik, N.W.T. in Canada.

Jenny Felder of Fairbanks gave a beautiful demonstration of the nalukatuk (blanket toss) and came out a winner. Laura Bergt, last years toss champion, but sprained her ankle on the first series of tries.

Danny Thomas of Kotzebue along with Sylvester Ayek, the latter serving as an able master of ceremonies, tried at hi-kick with both feet at the seven-foot mark, breaking the Olympics record at six feet eight inches set by Harry Kaleak of Barrow.

Danny Thomas also won one-foot hi-kick at seven feet four inches.

Morris Wilson of Kotzebue won the knuckle hop contest covering approximately 60 feet.

Tough little young man, James Itta of Barrow, won the ear weight contest carrying 15-pound lead weight on a thin string for the approximate distance of 325 feet winning thousands of fans in doing it.

BEAUTY PAGEANT

The World Eskimo Olympics Beauty Queen Pageant picked beautiful 20-year-old Miss Audrey Ambrose of Galena who entered the contest as Miss Fairbanks Native Association.

Miss Ambrose also won Miss Congeniality voted for by her fellow contestants.

As in all queen contests, this year's Olympics pageant was no less emotional. Miss Ambrose was happily in tears.

"I'm so happy—I just can't believe it," said Audrey. "I'm

really going to tell everyone the importance of our native culture."

Miss Leora Kenick of Nome who was succeeded by Miss Audrey Ambrose was also in tears.

"I have to give up this crown," she said with tears in her eyes. "I hate to give it up. I've had the most wonderful year of my life."

And then there was the muktuk eating contest in which everyone, including Caucasians. Scores of people took part in this unusual event much to everyone's amusement. It was won by George Taylor of Kotzebue who devoured his three-inch by two-inch morsel in 21 seconds flat.

The Minto Stick contest was won by Morris Wilson of Kotzebue, an Eskimo. The stick contest is the Athabaskan Indian game.

Parka contest was won by Mrs. Poldine Carlo of Fairbanks. Second was Mrs. Isa Sovalik, Barrow, and third was Mrs. Rhoda Nageak, also of Barrow.

Color? There was plenty of it in this year's Olympics, although unavoidably reduced. It has to be classed as the most interesting and colorful native programs in Alaska.

Ruby Tansy...

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available at the writing of the article.

Miss Locke said the other people walked away with bruises only and Miss Tansy had to be pried loose from the car. She is now in serious condition in the hospital and she is not allowed visitors at the present time.

Ruby Tansy is the chairman of the Alaska Federation of Natives housing committee, area representative of the Alaska Legal Services Corp., member of the board of directors of the Anchorage Welcome Center, member of the Tanana Chiefs Council, and a member of the board of directors of the National Indian Youth Council.

Miss Tansy is a graduate of the University of Alaska with a degree in mathematics.

Miss Pat Locke said there was a need for type B blood donors and she appeals for anyone of this type blood to donate.

"She is going to be in the hospital for a long time so people should send her cards and other means of encouragement," said Miss Locke.

PERDUE - GRAVEL...

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bunch of savages."

"Allegation that Warren Taylor made against Mike Gravel was totally without basis," Perdue said. "I don't think that these are true, and the new generation of leaders and the native people who will go for this type of mudslinging and old-line politics—this will not sway the native people of Alaska today."

"If Mr. Taylor," he continued, "is so interested how the native people should vote, one question sticks in my mind. When a lawyer of his stature speaks out and tries to sway our votes, I wonder how many native people Mr. Taylor has defended in court out of the goodness of his heart."

SEN. GRUENING

At this point, Perdue switched the subject of the interview to Sen. Ernest Gruening.

"As far as Sen. Gruening is concerned, I am constantly reminded that he solved discrimination problems 30 years ago but he is overlooking discrimination that is being perpetuated by the BIA today," he said.

Perdue revealed that he had checked Sen. Gruening's attendance record in the Senate in Washington, D. C.

"It reveals to me that he has the lowest attendance record of any senator seeking election. We need someone in Washington who will treat the office as a full time job," Perdue stated.

Ralph Perdue said that he has been haunted by a disturbing statement that Sen. Gruening made at Fort Yukon on April of 1964 which he cannot forget.

Gruening had gone to that upper Yukon River village to conduct a hearing on the Rampart Dam area withdrawal. The senator had come in on a chartered plane.

At the end of the hearing, Fort Yukon city council members had asked Sen. Gruening to discuss the Yukon River bank erosion that had then threatened to carve out sections of the town during spring and summer high water periods.

Perdue said that the senator didn't care to discuss the subject and indicated that he would do nothing because the village

Supervision of Campaign Ethics...

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Bradner and Miller said.

They said they hoped that the result would be that "mudslinging" and "vilification" could be held to a minimum in 1968, while the study committee has time to come up with the form of a permanent Fair Campaign Ethics Committee.

Miller and Bradner pointed out that such committees in other states function very well, and stand ready to alert the public against bad practices.

"The very existence of such a committee provides a powerful incentive for men in public office to toe the mark," they said.

Bradner and Miller said they have specific proposals to make to the bi-partisan study committee about how an ethics committee might be composed.

They said they also recommended that local district study committees be formed to aid the statewide study committee. Such a committee would review and study the campaign situation in 1968, and then come up with specific recommendations in the "cooler atmosphere" following the campaign year.

The two legislators said that such a "Fair Campaign Ethics Committee" might be made up of members of both parties and a certain number of independents. They explained that the process of filing complaints

would be underwater in a few years anyway.

At that point, Perdue said, the senator walked out and flew away. Perdue pointed out that there was now no Rampart Dam and a dike has since been built without Sen. Gruening's help.

"As one of the native leaders of Alaska and member of the Alaska Federation of Natives, I cannot withhold myself any longer and go on in my own way making a living, and have our elected officials saying things of this nature about our people," stated Perdue.

"One of the reasons," he went on, "that I have taken this freedom to come out and support a Democrat, when I'm a well known Republican, I have been preaching to all members of the Tanana Chiefs Conference to vote for the man and not necessarily a party that the individuals belonged to."

"I believe that President Lyndon Johnson put it very bluntly in April of 1967 when he in his speech said that there was too much party loyalty and not enough loyalty for the people represented."

NOT BOLTING

"The fact that I'm backing Mike Gravel in this campaign doesn't mean that I'm bolting the Republican Party. I'm still a Republican and will remain a Republican."

"I sincerely urge all those people in the Interior, Arctic Slope, and all over Alaska in general who know me personally, or know about me, to vote for Mike Gravel."

Perdue pointed out that the August 27 primary election was very much like a general election because it is an open primary. That means the voters can vote for anyone they wished, either Democrats or Republicans.

"In this primary election, our people should know and realize that they can vote for either the Republican or Democratic ticket," Perdue said.

Perdue has long been prominent among the native leadership in Alaska. He is the vice president of the Tanana Chiefs. He has a successful jewelry business here in Fairbanks.

would have to be carefully worked out so candidates could not "mis-use" the committee to gain publicity.

Such a committee might "censure" offenders or ask the respective parties to take action against offending candidates.

In addition, the committee could publish campaign ethics guidelines and policy.

Bradner and Miller acknowledged that supervision of campaign ethics and practices will prove difficult, and said this was exactly why they asked the temporary "pledge" so the study committee could work out the permanent committee.

Bad campaign practices and ethics tends to hide the real issues, the qualification of respective candidates, and also discourages some of our finest people from seeking public office, they explained.

"In addition recent decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court have made it virtually impossible for one public figure to sue another," they said.

"This means a man holding public office may find himself substantially libeled and yet legally helpless. The court precedents mean that either men in public office clean up their own house through campaign ethics supervision or they may be the victim of the next vicious attack," Miller and Bradner said.

