

OIL LEASE OFFERS PROTESTED

Tundra Times

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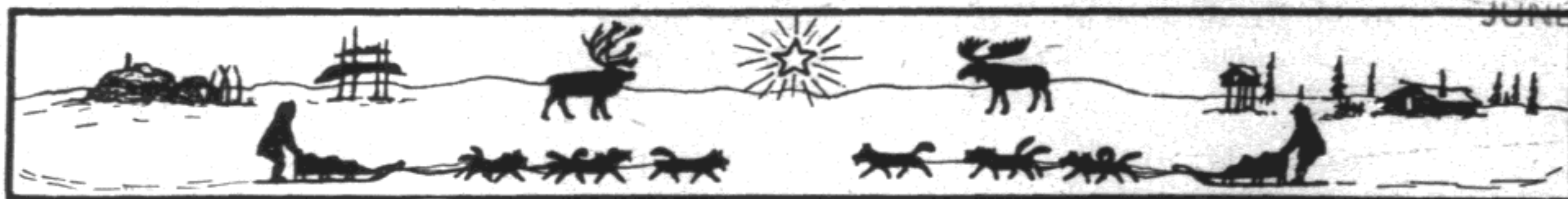
JUNEAU, ALASKA

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Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak



Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting
HAIDA
Yaunk yawn sue
Speak the absolute truth

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Friday, February 13, 1970

Fairbanks, Alaska



PRESIDENT RECEIVES REPORT— President Richard M. Nixon is receiving a memento from Luther Leavitt, Jr., front, of Barrow, Alaska who along with other Boy Scouts presented the President the annual report of the Boy Scouts of

America. The boys visited the White House on Feb. 5 on the invitation of Nixon. The 17 Scouts and Explorers represented 6½ million-member Boy Scouts of America.

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Secretary Hickel Calls for Meeting Of Pipeline Men, Native Leaders

Secretary of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel yesterday called for a meeting between officials of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System and appropriate native leaders in an effort to resolve differences resulting from a TAPS letter of intent issued to native groups to cover construction contracts related to its North Slope pipeline construction project.

The Secretary asked that the meeting take place as soon as mutually convenient to all concerned.

The Alaska Legal Services Corporation has filed a law suit on behalf of some interior Alaska natives seeking compensation for effects they contend the proposed TAPS pipeline will have on lands it crosses near the concerned native communities.

In the statement yesterday, Secretary Hickel said, "The solicitors office is investigating the legal status of the suit, and will encourage continued discussion among the parties involved."

"We believe that if those concerned will give ample consideration to the precautions taken by the Department of the Interior to protect the interest of all affected by the pipeline project, a resolution to this matter will resolve."

"We have developed a complete set of stipulations covering every aspect of the pipeline construction route and precautions to restrict any likely or remote environmental defects. In addition, we are making sure that these stipulations guarantee Alaska natives every opportunity

to take advantage of on-the-job construction training, employment counseling and assistance. "Further, every effort is being

Seattle Unions Back Claims

Strongly worded telegrams from eight Seattle trade unions were sent this week to the Washington State Congressional delegation, Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel, Alaska's Governor Keith Miller and Alaska State Senators, Brad Phillips and Gene Guess.

The unions, which represent 25,000 members, urged full support of the Alaska Federation of Natives land claims bill now before the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

"The Alaska Natives are entitled to share in the development of their own land and its resources," the telegram states. They also urged state participation in the land claims settlement.

According to Don Wright, a member of the Alaska Federation of Natives board of directors and a Public Relations Speaker Bureau member, the eight unions, all representing shipping and freighting trades in import and export to Alaska do not want to see the same recession which is now facing Seattle because of the Boeing Company's labor force cut-back.

Wright also said we are all in the same boat because Washing-

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made to insure that the State of Alaska and its citizens see the benefits of this development on a long-range basis."

General Agreement Among Native Leaders with Emil Notti

directors of the AFN to create a separate Indian nation in the western half of Alaska if Congress fails to pass a "fair" land claims bill.

Notti made the statement at the gathering of some 750 representatives of the Small Tribes of Western Washington.

The AFN president said that the western half of Alaska was populated by 90 per cent native anyway and would not likely be settled by non-natives until there was something discovered that can be exploited.

Reflecting on the shoddy treatment of the Indians throughout the United States as a whole, Notti declared:

"I will only say that it happened in Israel for a persecuted people. Why not here for a people who have lost a whole continent?"

REP. HENSLEY

Speaking from Juneau, Rep. William L. (Willie) Hensley said he was going along with Emil Notti.

"After all, he is our leader," said Hensley. "I think his statement reflected the natives' frustration at not really having gotten a settlement after several years

A licensed geologist and land surveyor took action this week to prevent the Bureau of Land Management from immediately granting oil and gas leases on millions of Alaska's future oil lands when the current land freeze is lifted.

George E. Utermohle, Jr. filed a formal protest with the BLM in Anchorage opposing any leasing of lands on which an Offer to Lease does not "fully comply with the requirements of all applicable laws, orders, regulations and notices."

The Alaska resident contended that due to a "loophole" created by the land freeze of 1966, speculators have managed to hold priorities to over 20 million acres of potential Alaska oil lands.

The priority to which he referred is known as an Offer to Lease. According to a spokesman at the Fairbanks Bureau of Land Management office, parties must file an Offer to Lease before an actual lease is issued. On lands affected by the 1966 land freeze, he continued, the Bureau holding in abeyance Offers to Lease, has issued no leases there. And, he added, the Offer to Lease does not mean that the lease will automatically be granted when the freeze is lifted.

As stated in his protest, Uter-

mohle wants to make sure that, when the leases are issued, the rights of the people and the U.S. Government are safeguarded.

He stated that according to the Code of Federal Regulations, "Every offer for an oil and gas lease for unsurveyed lands must state in his offer that there are no settlers upon the land, or if there be settlers, give the name and post office address of each and a description of the lands claimed."

With 18 years experience in petroleum, mining, and engineering, Utermohle contended that the offer to lease should have documentary evidence that he did in good faith make a reasonable effort to determine whether there are settlers on the land.

Offers that have been signed by the BLM, he continued, without documentary evidence to this effect, should be invalidated.

As proof that he has a basis to question the validity of Offers to Lease, Utermohle cites the filing of numerous offers over

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Former Governor Egan To Go for Former Seat

Former Governor William A. Egan tossed his hat into the ring last week for the governorship of Alaska pledging himself to responsible, imaginative and well-planned programs.

"There is no problem that we Alaskans do not now have the means to solve. The new challenges, new opportunities, only need dynamic, responsible leadership that understands them and is capable of effective, efficient administration."

"We must see to it that the opportunities are utilized in a

manner that will enhance the dignity and well being of all Alaskans," the Democrat said.

Alaska's first governor charged that the present administration has "merely added dollars to existing programs" rather than developing new ones according to the state's present capability and actual needs.

He further accused the current administration of largely ignoring "the pitiful and abject poverty living conditions of the rural village areas of Alaska."

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