

Notti Denies Momentum Loss . . .

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Congress because the native people have not stated their specific position on a settlement is without basis," Notti said.

"Native people in Alaska would like to see a speedy and fair solution to the land problem. The problem has been with the Congress and us for 102 years and no solution was even proposed until the native people got organized and took the initiative.

"We accelerated a solution to the problem and we will continue to press for a speedy settlement.

However, in the rush for a quick settlement we are not going to make any foolish judgements as to what might be a fair settlement.

"If the State of Alaska gets one to two billion dollars for some companies to go look for oil on 300 to 500 thousand acres of land, we would be making another Manhattan Island deal if we get locked in too soon on a firm position.

"Whatever our position turns out to be, it will be based on what we think is fair for the native people of Alaska to receive for the inheritance of their forefathers—their land.

"I question the motive of those who say we must tie our position down by a certain date or Congress won't act. Congress has to act. The problem will not disappear without their acting. They act deliberately based on all the information they can gather. We will do the same thing.

"We will move as fast as a good settlement will allow us to act based on the best advice we can get," Notti concluded.

AFN First Vice-President John Borbridge lended strength to this position in conclusions drawn from meetings in Washington this month. Borbridge urged comprehensive planning on the part of AFN for the settlement, saying "If you don't plan, then somebody else will plan for us."

Borbridge reached what he termed significant conclusions

from the conferences. He commented on the postponement of hearings of proposed land bills by the House Interior Committee.

"At the time of my visit, the Department of the Interior had not completed its draft of the land claims bill, and for this reason there was a postponement," Borbridge stated.

Approaches to revenue sharing and selection of non-contiguous mineral lands received what Borbridge termed "more sympathetic attention and support than was anticipated."

"There is a clearly evident support and sympathy for the land claims of Alaska's natives," he added. "Timing is very important," Borbridge concluded.

Speculation that Governor Keith Miller might appear at the Washington meetings was widespread earlier this week. Nothing did materialize, and no attempt to reconcile prospective State position with AFN policies has been made public.

The recent discovery of vast oil reserves has been a major topic of speculation from some sources. Indications are that some members of Congress are beginning to feel that the State should carry a significant share of the financial settlement.

Another pertinent issue under discussion is the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, slated to traverse a number of claim areas. Interior Secretary Hickel, in a survey of native opinion, sent telegrams to organizations claiming land along the pipeline route.

The telegram read, "Representatives of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Co. have recently requested from my department, right of way privileges to construct an 800 mile pipeline from the Prudhoe Bay area to Valdez. I am primarily concerned with protecting the best interests of the natives of Alaska.

"A portion of the proposed pipeline may cross lands that your members have claimed under the

Alaska native land claims. In order to insure that your voices are heard, I would appreciate your thoughts on this right of way request. You will be contacted by representatives of my department at a later date," Hickel said.

An interesting consideration in the right of way request is the failure of Hickel to contact the Tanana Chiefs Conference, over whose claims the proposed pipeline route will fall.

The pipeline would also pass near Mt. Fairplay, in the area sought by the Village of Tanacross in their controversial 1950 petition.

Initial reaction by native leaders suggests extreme caution among the native groups involved. In answering the Hickel telegram, AFN President Notti stated, "I would like to suggest that the AFN Steering Committee and those claimants whose land the pipeline crosses meet at the earliest date possible to discuss the right of way request."

In a statement to the Tundra Times, Notti specifically mentioned the Arctic Slope Native Association, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the Copper Valley Native Association, and the Chugach Native Association as groups that should receive primary consideration.

"When villages are approached for a waiver, they should immediately do two things. Number one, contact their lawyer; number two, advise the AFN office," Notti said.

Just as he had urged a coordinated approach to the Goldberg issue and the AFN policy decisions, Notti urged unity on the pipeline issue.

"Our greatest strength will lie in approaching this situation with a unified front," he concluded.

Milton Moses . . .

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At this point, Milton admits that he nearly decided to scratch. Yet, perhaps recalling his last place finish in the 1968 race, he became determined to show.

Show he did, buzzing like an angry fly beneath the Cushman street bridge. The unbelievable time of 20 hours four minutes and 45 seconds left second place Miss Rewak over an hour behind in the standings.

Initially, the well-respected Blue Goose and its owner-driver Johnny Anderson were expected to place in the final results. Crew members Anderson, Andy Jimmy, and Howard Luke drove a new engine back to Fairbanks.

To their great dismay, they discovered the new motor burned more gas than was anticipated. A mere three miles from the finish found the Blue Goose out of fuel and disqualified.

John Shilling's Miss Nordale came in third. The disqualified Blue Goose came in before Shilling, who could be seen arriving with a "he edged me out again" look on his face as he viewed the three boats sitting in front of the Chamber.

Some of the other boats weren't in such a hurry to return to Fairbanks. The Red Lantern Special, Miss Preservative Lady, X-5, and perpetually jinxed Slow Moe's Kayak encountered difficulties and scratched.

The Moses crew is not about to retire. Edmond Lord told Milton that he would wish to begin repairs on the Savage. "You are coming with me on the Nenana Race," Milton replied.

Thoroughly unimpressed with the entire event was two-year old Miltie, Jr. "I want to take home my trophy," he repeated many times. Miltie is the official owner of the Wild Savage, as the Senior Moses bought the boat in his son's name.

Building Access for Handicapped Realized: First Bartlett Award

The American Institute of Architects and The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped today bestowed the first annual Bartlett Award on architects for Boston's new City Hall, San Diego Stadium, and Houston's Tenneco Building.

The award is named for the late Senator from Alaska, E.L. Bartlett who battled to secure better access to hospitals, court houses, museums, and other public buildings.

Senator Bartlett authored Public Law 90-480 requiring new Federally-aided structures plus renovated older ones to be free of obstacles to persons in wheelchairs without assistance.

An estimated 26,000,000 Americans have impaired movement of varying degree due to advanced old age, illness, birth defects, accidents, and war injuries, according to Harold Russell, Chairman of The President's Committee.

Architects who won this year's Bartlett Award produced designs that offered easy movement in entrances, interior space, and approaches, said the AIA Jury.

Each year the Bartlett Award winners will come from projects which already have won an AIA Honor Award for superior design. This will allow the public to see how excellence in design and barrier free architecture can be easily combined.

Chief Isaac Fights . . .

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and helped us to survive, and is still doing so. Do you wonder why we are fighting to keep it?

"We would like some answers to the questions we have asked you, we believe you are really interested in our problems, but so far no one has told us just why we are being overlooked and our problems are growing instead of disappearing as we were told," the letter concluded.

The Tanacross Claim has a long history of inattention and intra-agency conflicts. The original petition by the Village of Tanacross for hearings on establishing a reservation was filed on November 30, 1950 with the Bureau of Land Management.

The document was not stamped by the BLM as received until November 16, 1961 by the Fairbanks Office. One BLM employee theorized that the petition may have floated from agency to agency until it arrived at the Fairbanks office some ten years later.

The land to which the Tanacross Village claimed ancestral rights was described in the 1950 document as "beginning at Tanacross, thence in a northeasterly direction to Mt. Fairplay thence north to the confluence of West Fork and Dennison Creek, thence in a northwesterly direction to elevation marker 6715, thence in a southeasterly direction to where Sears Creek empties into the Johnson River, thence to the point of beginning, Tanacross."

The BLM said that the petition was refused after it was received. On February 24, 1962, the Bureau of Indian Affairs filed an appeal on behalf of the Village of Tanacross. At that time, the petition and the appeal were sent to the Secretary of the Interior.

In 1964, Chief Andrew Isaac and the Village of Tanacross filed for a blanket claim to prevent the State from selling vacant lots within the Tanacross township and to reassert their claim on the area described in the original petition.

To date, there have been no hearings to resolve the status of the land, nor has there been any action by the Interior Department to consider the 1950 petition.

On May 24, 1965, the Tundra Times reported that the Tanacross Indians were angered at State plans to sell ancestral lands at the New York World's Fair. Center of the controversy was George Lake, located 60 miles from Tok in the claim area.

When it was discovered that title to the George Lake land was clouded by the Indian claim, then State Division of Lands Director Roscoe Bell said he was surprised at the uncertainty of the title.

The June 7, 1965, issue of the Times revealed a controversy and dissension within the State Lands Division. State Lease and Sales Manager Richard D. Mueller was allegedly fired for revealing the Indian claim.

Mueller labeled Lands Director

Bell's statements of ignorance of the Indian title as "false." Mueller stated that he was urged to repress the knowledge by his superiors so that the sale of the "wilderness estates" at George Lake could continue.

When he refused, Mueller said he was forced to resign. On August 23, 1965, the Times reported Mueller as stating that he had filed for an appeal with the State Personnel Board and that it had been refused.

The land sale was finally called off by the State after the matter had received extensive publicity in newspapers.

Most recent developments in the situation induce a letter from Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel in reply to concern voiced by Chief Isaac.

The Tanacross Chief inquired about certain locations within the claim area which had been classified as "open to entry" by the State. Isaac indicated that it was his understanding the State would only have tentative approval pending the outcome of his blanket claim.

Hickel replied in stating that the land was "patented to the State." He explained that this was his findings after checking with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the BLM.

The Interior Secretary was reported as making no determination on the 1950 petition, and even of having no knowledge of the original claim.

It may be questionable as to whether the original claim was ever sent to the Secretary. In the Tundra Times research of the matter, two stamped identical petitions, both dated November 30, 1950 and received in 1962 by the Fairbanks Office, were seen.

One of these was marked "copy." Another was signed in ink by David Paul, who was President of the Tanacross Village Council at the time.

This document had no indication of being marked as a copy. The signature of David Paul and the November 30, 1950 date were lettered in blue ink. If the final determination is yet to be made by the Secretary, the petition which gives every sign of being an original, may well belong in Washington.

The people of Tanacross, led by Chief Andrew Isaac, will soon begin waiting out their twentieth year for a reply if action is not taken soon. They continue to fight a legal battle for a land which they called their own even before European Man knew it existed.

Soon, a generation of his people will have passed into manhood and Chief Andrew Isaac may continue to wonder why his voice and his people is being ignored.

He still may say, "We are not chess game, we are human beings and right now a very upset and disturbed people."

State Forest Fires Rage

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and has a total manpower of 240 men.

There are eight fires that are considered to be out or in the mop-up stages. 4,130 acre Bluff Ridge fire is manned by 303 men and is in the final mop-up. The Pipeline fire, patrolled at 75 acres, is considered to be out.

The 600 acre Clearwater fire is in the mop-up stages. It covers 600 acres and has a total manpower of 143. The Flats fire, fought by 16 BLM smokejumpers, is being mopped-up. At one-quarter of an acre, the Irac blaze is in the mop-up stage attended by four men.

Manned by 30 military personnel and one BLM advisor, the 30 acre Radar fire is expected to come under control today.

A joint effort involving U.S. and Canadian fire fighters at Border City is considered to have put out the blaze at that location. 450 men from the Yukon Firefighters and Forest Service, as well as the Tanacross area, were involved in the effort.

Several unmanned fires have attained large blaze classifications. The Ute Creek fire now covers 125,000 acres. The Ladua fire has consumed 57,000 acres and is expected to join the 2,000 acre Edge Creek fire.

Reindeer Creek and Holonda fires have both reached the 5,000 acre size. 10,000 acre Montauk Bluff fire is also unmanned, as is Dirty fire which covers 4,000 acres.

Also unmanned are the Blair Lake military fire, acreage unknown; The Todatontin fire, 1,000 acres; Never fire, acreage unknown; the Kanute fire, acreage

unknown; the Reindeer Creek fire, 5,000 acres; Chandalar Island, acreage unknown; Nolitna Creek fire, 2,000 acres; Shannon Hill, 2,000 acres; Killik River, acreage unknown; the Bear fire, 3,500 acres; and the Crooked Creek fire, 500 acres.

Hockley Hill, 500 acres; Rich-top fire, 2,000 acres; and the White Creek fire, 700 acres; are also reported as unmanned. The BLM Fire Control Center stated that their were 9 other unmanned fires, with acreage unknown.

Three fires were listed as completely out. They are Dome Creek Stover Creek, and the Second Nenana fire.

The BLM reports 74 per cent of its manpower committed, amounting to 1,306 firefighters and 57 supporting men. The Fire Control Center stated that 42,315 acres had been burned in the 24 hour period ending Thursday morning.

The ESSA Weather Bureau cites the numerous fires as the cause of the smoke situation in the interior of Alaska. The so-called "greenhouse effect" has brought about more moderate temperatures during the daytime.

"The only real effect would be caused by the smoke itself and by relatively stable conditions located in a system stagnated by stable air . . . There is nothing to carry the smoke into the higher atmosphere which has caused reduced visibility," the weather bureau reported.

The situation is expected to continue. Neither the BLM, nor the ESSA foresees any immediate break.