

RURALCAP's ACTION REPORTS

RurALCAP



Partners for Progress
with Alaska's Communities

The weekly newsletter of the NON-PROFIT, PRIVATE CORPORATION
which serves rural Alaska in the battle against poverty in our state.

An information and education function of Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.



Vol. IV, No. 6

May 23, 1969

Goldberg Resigns as AFN Counsel

Attorney Arthur J. Goldberg withdrew as the land claims attorney to the Alaska Federation of Natives earlier this month, but the AFN has voted not to accept his resignation.

Goldberg announced his withdrawal after receiving several derogatory letters and telegrams from lawyers for regional Native groups, alleging that he was trying to insure a very large payment to himself for helping settle the land claims.

Goldberg later said he would resume his duties if the controversy with several local attorneys was settled.

Formerly Secretary of Labor, Supreme Court justice, and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Goldberg said "the attacks are entirely lacking in the respect owing to one who has served his country in three of its highest offices."

Goldberg is a law partner in the New

York City law firm of Paul, Weiss, Goldberg, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison. Another attorney, Edward Weinberg, was with the land claims effort by Goldberg.

Goldberg cited several communications addressed to him "from certain lawyers purporting to represent affiliates of the Alaska Federation of Natives," as the reason for his withdrawal.

Officials of several Native organizations sent messages giving their opinions on Goldberg's resignation. Walter Ahmoagak, president of the Arctic Slope Native Association, said his group regretted the former justice's resignation, but he added, "However, we have no doubt that his thinking and ours was not attuned, and we only wish that we had been able to strike an understanding before he found it necessary to resign."

Another statement came from John

Hendrickson, attorney for the Unalakleet Village Council which had objected to Goldberg's proposed contract that contained no fee limit. (Goldberg's proposed contract with the AFN called for the payment of "reasonable" hourly compensation, plus an unspecified participation in the eventual claims package. The latter sum was to be determined by disinterested third parties and is, under current law, subject to approval of the Interior Department.)

Hendrickson said, "As counsel for Unalakleet, I have renounced any fee concerning land claims representation." He added, "It remains to be seen whether Justice Goldberg will serve the Native cause without compensation. If so, why was the controversial contract proposed in the first instance?"

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Head Start Begins Summer Training

Two summer training sessions for Head Start teachers and aides is tentatively scheduled to be held in Sitka, Nome and Fairbanks simultaneously, depending upon the go-ahead from Washington, D.C.

The first session is scheduled to begin June 9 through July 4 and the second session July 7 through August 1. This seems to be the first Community Action Program to be directly funded for Head Start training, according to Sally Miner, Head Start Director for RurALCAP.

Fifteen teachers and aides are slated to attend each of the sessions, totaling 90 teachers, said Miss Miner. Instructors will be Child Development workers living within Alaska, from the University of Alaska, along with Head Start field staff.

It is planned to have some of the experienced village teachers as instructors for non-experienced teachers. The training will be followed up with workshops during the winter school term.

Tentatively plans also include Vivian Halverson from Hawaii to direct the sessions at Nome along with Lyn Harrison from Weber College in Utah. Coming from Fullerton Jr. College in California, Jody Tanner will direct the sessions in Sitka; and Mary Murphy of Fairbanks will direct the Fairbanks sessions.

The remainder of the instructors is Head Start field staff. There will also be dormitory counselors, one secretary for each site and adult basic education teachers.

Workshop activities that have been scheduled include art, music, science, language and other things that pertain to pre-school children. The teachers and aides will spend some time on nutrition and parental involvement. It is also tentatively planned to have six teachers attend an institute for teachers of Indian and Eskimo children to be held June 30 through August 15. Dr. Marianna Bunger



Sally Miner, Head Start Director.

of Alaska Methodist University in Anchorage is directing this seven-week course.

Those teachers and aides attending either Fairbanks or Sitka training sessions will have the choice of college credits if they so desire.



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Lisbourne Gets NW High Post

Daniel Lisbourne has been appointed northwestern executive director for the Northwest Economic Development and Planning Board.

Lisbourne will be in charge of Census Districts 21, 22 and 23 for the Board, recently formed by the Alaska Federation of Natives. Funds are provided by the Economic Development Administration.

The Board is made up of representatives of the economic development corporations in northwestern Alaska. They include Lester Suvlu and Warren Matumeak, Barrow; Paul Rookak; Pat Ongtawasruk, Wales; Francis Soxie, Unalakleet; Andrew Daniel, Elim; Tommy Sheldon, Kiana; and Daniel Iyatunauk, Deering.

Lisbourne will do research and technical studies in planning and development, work with villages and governmental agencies and recommend and direct special projects. He will evaluate public programs such as roads, airport and port development, school and military installations, for overall economic benefit.

The new director is sharing office with Frank Ferguson, executive director of Kikiktugruk Area Community Development Corporation, in the Kotzebue Sound Regional RurALCAP Center in Kotzebue. Serving as his secretary will be Arlene Stevens.

Food Stamps Help Many Families

Mrs. Donald A. Samuelson of the Extension Service says, "Food stamps (a project of the U. S. Department of Health, Welfare and Education) enable the poor to have a better diet and more variety in their food."

Food stamps are issued after the family has been evaluated as to income, expenditures and responsibilities. The stamps are purchased with money and are then used to buy a greater amount of food than the money could buy.

Nutritionist Gaynor Maddox says, "The biggest block lies in ignorance, lack of cooking equipment and utensils, and little if any refrigeration or storage rooms. Thousands don't know how to use donated foods or their food stamps effectively."

Extension Service aides in Anchorage are confronted with the same barriers, but have taught many homemakers to prepare low-cost nourishing dishes. The aides have found many women who do not know how to prepare even the simplest recipes.

Families are learning the importance of nutrition and how to make food choices that provide for a more nearly-adequate diet, said Mrs. Samuelson. Some are finding it possible to spend less for better food or to buy more food at the same cost. Others are learning to bake.

Native families moving from the village to the city for the first time face these problems and many others, said Mrs. Samuelson. They don't understand English very well, the use of money or the preparation of purchased foods, she continued.

Mrs. Samuelson said, "Some jobs have been found, some children are better fed, some homes have been improved and morale raised through the aides work."

Three Villages Get RDA Grant

The villages of Pitka's Point, Fortuna Ledge and Mountain Village have received grants for special projects from the Rural Development Agency, according to an announcement from Gov. Keith H. Miller.

The largest of the three grants - - \$7,000 - - will go to Fortuna Ledge to construct a community hall. Another \$5,800 will go to Pitka's Point to pay wages of persons working on a log community building. Workmen will gather driftwood logs and split and pack them up the bank to the building site.

A third \$3,000 grant will go to Mountain Village in Northwestern Alaska.



New northwest director of the North west Economic Development and Planning Board Daniel Lisbourne, right, talks with other RurALCAP personnel in Kotzebue. From left are Lisbourne's secretary, Arlene Stevens; Frank Ferguson, executive director of the Kikiktugruk Area Community Development Corporation; and James Coppock, RurALCAP Community Developer.

Unique Alaska Program Underway

A novel and innovative approach to the establishment of self-help enterprises bringing community development and job opportunity to the remote Native villages of Alaska was launched by RurALCAP this past week.

After nearly a year of planning, equipment searching and breaking through red-tape, the long awaited Surplus Acquisition Program has now formally begun. With the implementation of this novel program (developed by former Senator Ernest Gruening) and the accompanying mechanics' vocational training program now underway at Seward, the Surplus Acquisition Program has now been launched.

Some 86 Native Alaskans are undergoing a preliminary two week training session at Seward. During this training period the first equipment secured from overseas areas through the Agency for International Development, will be refurbished and made ready for operation in the remote villages of Western Alaska.

This equipment will be loaded on military cool barges for transshipment to Western Alaska late this week. The equipment, which is mainly dozers and trucks, can be expected in some of the villages in early June. Many self-help community enterprises are awaiting the delivery of the heavy equipment to their respective villages.

Top priority for the use of the dozers will be the maintenance and improving of remote airstrips in cooperation with the Alaska State Division of Aviation; two



The men shown above with one of surplus acquisition caterpillars are just a few of the more than 80 villagers who this week will complete a two-week mechanics course in Seward.

logging enterprises; the Yukon-Kuskokwim tramway construction; the moving and rebuilding of two villages; construction of a dike and other such self-help enterprises.

The inauguration of this unique program came about at approximately the same time the Office of Economic Opportunity issued a guidance paper urging community action agencies "to initiate and support the kinds of community organization, technical assistance and resource development which will initiate new activities which will provide full employment for the poor . . ." The current guidance paper points out that

Congress in Section 201. (b) of the Economic Opportunity Act has mandated Community Action Agencies to provide "vocational training and employment opportunities in rural America to enable the poor living in rural areas to remain in such areas and become self-sufficient therein."

The philosophy encompassed in this statement has been a primary goal of RurALCAP since November 1967. Based upon this goal, the Board of Directors of the agency invested considerable time, effort and financial resources of the agency in the Surplus Acquisition Program and its accompanying education/training component, operated by the State Office of Education.

The RurALCAP Board of Directors has determined that based upon the needs of the many villages in Alaska, such equipment as dozers, freezers, trucks, graders, etc., can be a very effective and innovative tool in eliminating poverty through the process of helping poor people help themselves.

Recently OEO has placed rather stringent conditions upon the securing and utilization of equipment. However, joining with the RurALCAP Board of Directors, OEO has determined that this program will be considered a pilot project and if successful during the next three months, can be expanded into a much larger activity bringing to many more people living in poverty, the capability that can assist them greatly in attacking poverty in their home communities.



Villagers working on the caterpillars helped renovate the equipment needing some mechanical repairs. Some of the men will go to Seward in October for a more extensive training session by the Office of Education.

Counsellor Resigns Students Speak

(Continued from Page 1)

Goldberg said the unspecified participation was designed to protect the fund from "unconscionably large contingent fees." He "would never include a 5 or 10 percent guarantee" because the amount under such a contract may reach "unreasonably large sums."

Hendrickson also said, "The notion of a single state-wide corporation to handle all Native claim funds is contrary to the best interests of the Alaska Natives. It in effect creates a new Bureau of Indian Affairs." The single corporation concept is a creation of the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska. It is not known whether the idea is totally acceptable to Goldberg or the AFN leadership.

Attorney Fred Paul of Seattle sent a two-page letter strongly criticizing Goldberg's conduct of the land claims battle. Paul, a Tlingit Indian originally from Southeast Alaska, represents the Arctic Slope Native Association. He did not clear his letter with Eben Hopson, executive director of that association and a second-vice-president of the AFN.

Goldberg was criticized by Paul for not consulting regional Native attorneys before preparing his testimony for presentation three weeks ago to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. (The Interior Committee is considering at least two proposed claims settlements, one prepared in February by the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska, and a second by Secretary of Interior Walter J. Hickel at the recent hearings.)

Directors of AFN met in a week-long session to discuss Goldberg's resignation. Emil Notti, president of AFN, was presiding at the meeting.

A group of young Natives attended an Anchorage Federation of Teachers meeting last week and related their impressions of what the Anchorage area schools look like from their learning side.

Some of the young Natives were junior or senior high school students and others were drop-outs. They generally agreed on a number of points.

Since many of them had spent their early school years in bush village schools, informal, intimate relationships had developed with village teachers. The difference in the Anchorage area schools seemed colder and more impersonal to them. They seemed to have difficulty adjusting to city teachers and the young people had no background to understand the school courses in Anchorage.

Many of the young students stressed the desire to be allowed to proceed in their studies at their own pace.



Area Community Developer James Coppock is working with the Kikiktugruk Area Community Development Corporation in Kotzebue. The 26-year-old Kotzebue man says that every community is equal when it comes to the needs of the area.

Higher Learning

Gov. Keith H. Miller's Office has announced that the Alaska State Scholarship Loan Fund has been doubled and authorized a total of \$100,000.

The loans are intended to assist qualified Alaska students to secure a higher education in the State's institutions of higher learning and to encourage able students to remain in Alaska and provide future leadership.

Last year a \$50,000 appropriation to cover 100 scholarship loans to Alaska colleges and universities was initiated. To encourage recipients to remain in Alaska upon completion of their higher education, the total sum (which must be repaid to the program) is reduced in proportion to the length of time the recipients stay in Alaska.

This year's authorization will be \$50,000 to be used for renewal of loans to those students of last year and the additional \$50,000 will be available for freshmen entering college in the fall of 1969.

Announces Jobs

Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurALCAP) has announced positions to be filled and is presently recruiting.

These positions are: Assistant Director, Community Service Corps Director, Special Projects Director, Surplus Acquisition Director, 3 Program Specialists, Outreach Coordinator, Communications Specialist, Communication Coordinator and Heavy Equipment Mechanic.

Recruitment closes May 29, 1969. Contact the Alaska State Employment Office for more information or application forms.

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