



## RurAL ALaska Community Action Program, Inc.

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# Newsletter

### LAND CLAIMS-THE DEADLINE DRAWS NEAR

A deadline for justice is approaching all Alaskans as the U.S. Congress continues to consider the issue of Alaska Native Land Claims.

The bill, now before the House of Representatives, has been classed by some as America's last chance to deal fairly and equitably with the aboriginal residents of the northland.

In a recent interview, Eben Hopson, Executive Director of the Alaska Federation of Natives, gave a run-down on the present status of the Land Claims issue in Congress and his impressions of where he feels it will go.

Hopson reported that the Senate-passed bill on the subject provided for an outright settlement of \$500 million; a two per cent overriding royalty on revenues from ceded lands, up to \$500 million; and a base settlement of 10 million acres of land.

"When the bill was reported out on the Senate floor by the Interior Insular Affairs Committee," he said, "it contained a provision which allowed up to 10 million acres. Through our efforts in Washington, with the help of many of the members of the Senate, the bill was amended to provide for a settlement of 10 million acres as a base figure instead of a ceiling."

Hopson, a long time fighter for equitable settlement of Alaska Native Land Claims said "The Senate bill has some features which we feel are undesirable to Alaska Natives."

He mentioned the Partial Termination clause which provides for the termination of all BIA services in Alaska, with the exception of schools, after a five-year period.

"We failed in our attempt to have that stricken from the bill," he said, "Just because we are getting a land claims settlement, does not mean that services must be terminated."

He indicated that BIA schools are separately funded and could continue on indefinitely, or until the State Operated School System takes over existing facilities.

"The Johnson-O'Malley bill, through which the BIA schools are funded is not necessarily intended for the BIA," he said. "The state could avail themselves of this same funding source if they chose to."

Hopson indicated that the regular procedure with a bill once it has passed one of the two houses of Congress is for the remaining house to take up that piece of legislation and work with it.

"The House of Representatives seems to want to write its own bill, however," he said.

"At present," he continued, "we don't know what they are going to do with it. It is still under consideration by the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee and the sub committee on Indian Affairs."

"Outside of an expression of concern," he said further, "we have had no reading from the committee members."

The House is now in recess, and will return in September, then adjourn again until after the November elections.

The land freeze, instituted by Secretary of the Interior Stuart Udall, and continued by Secretary Hickel is due to expire January 1, 1970. The land freeze was intended to prevent anyone from selecting federal lands in Alaska until the Native claims had been settled.

Hopson reported that the AFN hopes to have a delegation in Washington early in September prior to the convening of the executive sessions of the two House committees considering the bill.

"If nothing is passed by January 1," Hopson said, "and the new Congress convenes, we will have to start over from scratch, because there is liable to be an entirely new Congress."

Meanwhile, the State of Alaska is beginning to make plans for selection of land after the land freeze lifts January 1.

Tom Kelly, Commissioner of Natural Resources, was in Anchorage recently, reviewing the state's land selection program, and reportedly, drafting plans for selections to be made after the freeze is lifted.

The state, under the terms of the Statehood Act, has 90 days preference right in selecting all public domain lands. At present, a very small portion of the 103 million acres, allowed under the act, have been selected.

Kelly indicated that at least one area which is in for some special investigation is that area of the North Slope west of Petroleum Reserve Four. That same area has been claimed by the Arctic Slope Native Association in the legislation now before Congress.

Hopson said "it is public knowledge that the state will make selections as soon as the land freeze is lifted."

"However," he continued, "I am certain that the regional Native organizations throughout the state will take all action necessary to prevent the state from selecting land until the Land Claims Bill has been justly settled."

He mentioned possible suits by regional Native organizations against the state and oil companies, if no Land Claims Bill is approved by January 1.

Although Secretary Hickel extended the freeze when he took office a year and a half ago, Hopson said that he does not feel that Hickel will extend the freeze any further, although he has the power to do so.

"Secretary Hickel has done many favorable things for Alaska Natives, but I doubt if he will extend the land freeze any further. He is basically a developer. He wants to see Alaska develop. The Alaska Natives are equally interested in this state's development, but the difference is that we have been waiting for 100 years for a land claims settlement, and feel we have priority."

During a recent tour of the 49th state, U.S. House majority leader, Carl Albert (D-Oklahoma), a long time supporter of the Land Claims issue, said the "white population of Alaska can not realize it's great potential until the Native population is given the care and education they need to prosper."

Albert said that he hopes the Land Claims Bill will pass the House before this session is adjourned.

He also said that Congress "must step up facilities for Natives. We shouldn't breed a permanently dependent group of any race or creed."

He concluded by saying: "Native health and education are basically Federal problems. When the education and living standards of the Alaska Native is equal to that of their white friends, the state would have to see that there were enough jobs."

#### GORDON JACKSON LEAVES FOR JUNEAU AS DICK STITT LEAVES SEACAP

During a cocktail party at the home of Joe Meade, Ruralcap Chief of Personnel Services, several weeks ago, the Ruralcap staff took time out from every day business to say good bye to friend and fellow worker Gordon Jackson, who is taking over as Director of the Southeastern Community Action Program, in Juneau.

Gordon has been at Ruralcap for over a year, in which time he ~~was~~ a Program Development Specialist.

In saying the official goodbye for Ruralcap, Deputy Director, John Shively commended Jackson for his accomplishments while at Ruralcap and said: "our loss is SEACAP's gain...They certainly have chosen a competent man for the job."

Gordon will be replacing Dick Stitt, who resigned as SEACAP Director to assume a new position with the Tlingit-Haida organization.

The party at Meade's abode was also called to celebrate the birthday of Carol Sturgeon, Accounting Clerk II at Ruralcap; and to welcome Kathleen Kennedy and Sophie Spurr, who worked for Ruralcap this summer in Parent Child Centers in Hoonah and Kotzebue.

"Carol Sturgeon," Shively said, as he joined the Ruralcap staff in saying happy birthday, "is a classic example of career development. When she came to Ruralcap, she began as a Secretary I, and now has progressed to her present position in the accounting department."

Kathleen Kennedy, 19, the eldest daughter of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and friend Sophie Spurr, 19, joined the celebration, enjoying new-made friendships and taking in the feel of returning to city life.

During the Meade party, Sophie, the more talkative of the pair commented "When they said they were going to serve Cold Duck, I thought it was going to be a buffet."

#### MILESTONES IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

August 14 marked a big day for Betty Scaman, Director of the Ruralcap Central Child Development Staff. On that day, the Early Childhood Development Conference, the first of it's kind in the state began at Community College in Anchorage, and the Central Staff successfully completed the behemoth, but sorely needed Ruralcap Head Start Manual.

During the one and one-half day conference at Community College, more than 40 educators from throughout the state gathered to discuss the many aspects of the several early childhood programs in Alaska.

The conference, called by Mrs. Scaman, through Ruralcap Executive Director Byron I. Mallott, marked the first time that representatives of all the agencies and institutions in Alaska who deal with early childhood development had gotten together in one room to discuss their mutual problems and successes.

The first day, the body met as a whole and discussed common problems. The topics included federal funding, state and local funding, teacher certification, minimum standards, teacher training, inter agency communication, day care programs, unfunded rural pre-school programs, and a definition of early childhood by each of the agencies represented.

On the second day of the conference, the assembled representatives broke up into small discussion groups which came forth with resolutions suggesting changes in present procedures, and adoption of new procedures in several areas concerning early childhood development.

The Head Start Manual, written and compiled by L. Lee Fulton, contains within its 200 pages, information that should answer any question that might arise at several levels of the Ruralcap Head Start program in rural areas. It contains precise guidelines, for Field Training Supervisors, Village and State PACs, the village and Central staff.

In a letter at the beginning of the manual, Mrs. Scaman said "This manual is a dream come true for those of us in the Central Office...I have often wished that I could visit every center, and meet every child, parent and staff member; but in our large state, this is almost impossible...This manual, however, will hopefully bring us closer together so that we can achieve our common goal, which is to offer a meaningful pre-school program in Alaska."

Not the least important section of the manual are 23 pages of directories listing all persons, federal, state, regional and local who are involved in the Head Start program in Alaska.

#### NEW DIRECTOR FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES

The Board of Trustees of the Alaska Legal Services Corporation, at its July 24-25 meeting, hired a new Executive Director, Mr. Richard A Buckley. Mr. Buckley, formerly Director of the New Orleans, La. Legal Services Program, will replace William H. Jacobs on September 1st. Mr. Buckley has also been an Assistant Professor at Loyola School of Law, and an attorney with the United States Justice Department.

#### RURALCAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO MEET

The Ruralcap Board of Directors will hold its quarterly meeting August 28 and 29 in Anchorage. Topics up for discussion will include the Head Start Grant for 1970-71 and the discussion on beginning the Ruralcap Grant application process for 1971. The members of the State Policy Advisory Committee for Child Development will also hold their meeting in Anchorage. The state PAC meeting is scheduled to be held August 27 to allow the State Ruralcap board to act on PAC recommendations.

#### HERB CANCELLARICH TO LEAVE

Tom Potter, Ruralcap Controller, said recently that Property Specialist, Herb Cancellarich, will leave Ruralcap in September to accept a position with the Atomic Energy Commission in Missouri.

Potter said that the supply division is also in the process of reorganization to expedite supply efficiency.

Taking Herb's place will be Glenn H. Ruesink, whose background in supply includes experience as a civilian property officer with the U.S. Air Force and Navy.

"We've had problems in getting supplies out to the regions," Potter said. "The new supply officer's background shows that he is experienced, and we look forward to his involvement in improving the situation."

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee of the Ruralcap Board of Directors will meet in Anchorage at the end of September to discuss the development of the CAP 81 for 1971, essentially the plans and priorities for Ruralcap Versatile funding, in preparation for the Grant applications for next year's program funding.

#### HEAD START TRAINING ENDS

The annual summer training session for Head Start Teachers and village staff members ended August 14, with courses held at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, Alaska Methodist University and Anchorage Community College.

In Anchorage, this year's program was directed by Pat Soll, Supplemental Training Director at AMU, and in Fairbanks, the sessions were held under the able direction of Connie Smith, Assistant Regional

Training officer at the University of Alaska.

The sessions were divided into three components, beginning June 22 and running through August 14. The three separate components aimed at experienced Head Start Teachers and Teacher Aides; new Teachers and Teacher Aides; and Cooks.

A six-week training session began for experienced village Teachers and Teacher Aides at AMU and the University of Alaska June 29. Nearly 60 Teachers from Alaska's three Head Start programs participated. The sessions consisted of attending regular scheduled summer classes at both universities. All who completed the course were awarded full college credit for their effort.

A group of 40 new Teachers and Teacher Aides took part in two four-week sessions held at Community College in Anchorage beginning June 22 and running through August 14. The sessions featured a demonstration Head Start program, to give the new village staffers classroom experience. The demonstration programs were held for four hours each day, followed by classroom instruction, during both sessions. The new Teachers and Teacher Aides who successfully completed the four week sessions were also granted full college credit for the time they spent in class.

Annual training for the Child Development staff began Wednesday, August 18 and ran through the 21st. The annual seminar, held this year at Big Lake, featured guest lectures by state and OEO officials.

Some of the topics discussed during the seminar were the presentation and review of the Head Start Manual, and ways to encourage the use of the manual; Review of the yearly planning process; Evaluation of village programs by Field Training Supervisors; discussion of individual program difficulties; and an introduction to the magic circle concept.

Guest instructors included: John Turner, University of Alaska; Jim Irany, Anchorage Community College; Mick Murphy, Teacher Corps, State Operated Schools; Ernie Brannon and Bill Parker, Training and Technical Assistants, State OEO; Marion Bowles, Alaska Crippled Child Association; and Betty Scaman, Ruralcap Child Development Director.

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