

88-49-100

Pat Hays, Jess Mauder, Steve Crosby, Andy Hope

Moses Wassillie, moderator

Series: Potlatch series

1977

Moe Wassillie said January 2, 1977 was the deadline for enrollment under the Omnibus Bill. Patrick Hays of the Bureau of Indian Affairs talked about statistics of the new enrollees. They were expecting 5000 additional people to enroll. They actually had 8500 applications for enrollment. There were 1-2 enrollees per application. He said the figure will be close to about 5000. There are a large number of applications from people that applied and were denied eligibility. He said the publicity was a worldwide campaign and between 60 and 70 percent of the applications came from outside of Alaska. He said they take each application and put all of the information into their computer system. He said the enrollment process will take one to two years depending on staffing. They are going to attempt to get the enrollment done as quickly as possible. The applicants are eligible for benefits back to 1976. The village will have additional shareholders but will not be entitled to additional land selections. They will maintain two separate listings. One will be those eligible under the original act and those eligible under the provisions of the amendment to the act.

Song by Buffy Sainte Marie

Moe Wassillie said the Alaska Economic Development Office of the Minority Business Enterprises of AFN has been open for two years. Jess Mauder, the director, said they have packaged loans, assist people to maintain businesses after they start, and they give technical assistance to people. Their staff are involved in things from economics to engineering. They have loan specialists, CPAs, and lawyers among other talents. They have financial and construction talent. They lend their capabilities and prior experience to people that are starting in these fields. He said in their first quarter they packaged 7 million dollars worth of loans. They assisted contractors after they started in business. They provided 1400 hours of technical assistance. They have been involved in regional activities. They are involved in the gas pipeline to make sure that minorities will be represented in a fair share of the business. They are involved in the cultural center. They hope to raise funds to support some type of cultural center. They only have one office but they hope to have an office in Juneau and Fairbanks. It will help logistics. He said Bush travel takes time and they have limited staff. He talked about the few failures that they have had. He said the businesses that they have helped start are doing quite well.

Song by Buffy Sainte Marie

Moe Wassillie talked about the Alaska Federation of Natives Student Higher Education Services Program. Steve Crosby talked about the types of services that the program provides including counselors. They live locally in the different regions. They can also service students through the mail. They have talent searches, career counseling and an educational information service. It is designed to

get a student into an educational program that is suited for them. They can help a student to decide on a career path. He said it all depends on the individual's needs and goals. They provide information about training opportunities including college and vocational schools. They provide technical assistance about financial aid and help to complete required forms.

Song by Buffy Sainte Marie

Moe Wassillie said the Raven's Bones Foundation was organized in the past year. Andy Hope talked about the foundation. He said they wanted artistic control over various projects. He talked about control over educational projects. Their first cultural task force meeting they decided to incorporate. He talked about the meaning of the name of their foundation which had been used for clan houses. They wanted to honor Harry Bremner from Yakutat. There are eight members on their board. They are trying to start a literature program. They will put out an annual journal. They will have pieces from writers across a wide variety of traditions. They hope to initiate an educational program and have plans for a summer institute. Their funding comes from a variety of sources.

Song by Buffy Sainte Marie