Atom Bomb Brings Statehood Closer

Alaska is Capable of Running Own Affairs; Signs are Encouraging

(By William L. Baker, Ketchikan)

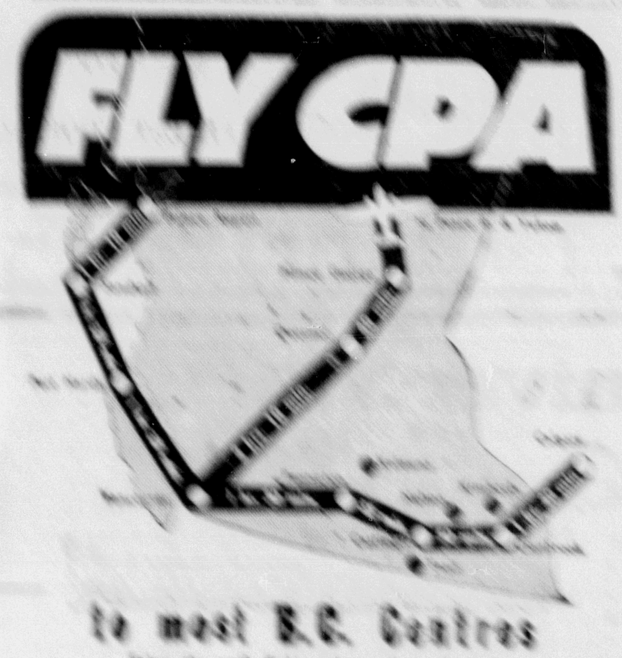
KETCHIKAN (Special) — "You are ready for statehood and you'll probably get your bill through the house easily enough," declared members of a U.S. congressional party that left here last week after a 10-day flying trip through Alaska investigating several problems of the fisheries, shipping and small boat harbors.

Author of the above statement was Bear Mountain Allen, California Republican, who said he was surprised and pleased to find Americans just as rugged and alert as any westerners living all over Alaska. "Why you people are certainly capable of running your own affairs as well as anyone," he said without hesitation. And I'm glad to see that living standards up here are advancing as good as in the rest of the United States."

The 4-member party included Victor Wickersham, Okla., Democratic chairman of the subcommittee. Other delegates were Thor Tollefson, Wash., Republican, and Alaska's own Delegate Bob Bartlett. Mr. Bartlett previously mentioned that Congressman Tollefson had also been here and knew that city well.

Prince Rupert Daily News

Thursday, November 15, 1945



Kaien Hardware

(Inc. 1945)

WISHES ALASKA SPEEDY SUCCESS IN ITS CAMPAIGN FOR STATEHOOD

Prince Rupert's Headquarters for Sporting Goods and Hunting Supplies

HOMES OF ALASKANS

EDWARD LIPSETT

Limited

Distributors of the Pfaelzer Plans

BUY ALASKA SHOP IN THE ALASKA STORE

He said he wants to come up and help our people celebrate the arrival of statehood.

There are all encouraging signs Alaskans recall that two years ago as Prime Minister Senator Hugh Butler of Nebraska, chairman of a U. S. senate Alaska committee, said statehood would come to Alaska within a dozen to five years. Yet he has failed thus far to assist it as Hawaiian statehood, which admittedly was secured this year by Navy Pacific shipping tie up in the islands. That Alaska had to wait, too, for it is Democratic in party line and Hawaii is Republican. Neither party would be statehood for one because of congress to one territory without both being injected. Alaska here and knows that well.

So it is certain it is evident that despite unanimous endorsement of the house public lands committee, the Alaska statehood measure went over to the house rules committee and languished there all through the lengthy 81st Congress's first session.

There are hopeful signs, however. President Truman, according to columnist, had planned to visit Alaska this summer. The long session of congress prevented it. However, he has made up his mind to torpedo the statehood bills out onto the floors of both houses. Alaska's governor Ernest Gruening is coming to the Territory this week-end with that news in the front of his mind.

The President sent a special message to Congress on Alaska last spring, the first time in history Alaska has been thus honored. Among other things he demanded statehood. The political slow-pokes didn't act. They said he had muffed his civil rights program so badly—aside from statehood for the territories—that it hadn't a chance.

After reading news from the New York state municipal election, they will realize the President does not let either his trip or his following be in vain; willing and eager to grapple with some of his Fair Deal programs before the election to the 82nd congressional elections and two of those issues will be the right of 800,000 Americans in Alaska and Hawaii to have home rule. They ought to be altogether half-hearted Americans in the meantime. Alaska's history for the past 50 years has been one of neglect. Even the Japanese knew it was a prize worth having. Now, with Canada and Alaska will soon work close with the Aleutians as the U. S. Siberia. The issue with discrimination to air, sea, and highway, the facts and figures prove well-nigh unanswerable. Alaska, by the way, could give with her natural asset.

Ships Ore From Glacier Creek

SEWARD — Shore transfer of high grade ore from the old Mikfo Mine Group in Glacier Creek, 10 miles south of Seward, will be made on the Alaska Steamship Co. vessel Denali, which is expected to arrive here from Seattle about November 20. The ore will be shipped to the Tacoma smelter.

KETCHIKAN—Mission Street in Ketchikan, federal building in background.

Rupert-Haines Car Ferry Seen Soon

Transportation Project Winning Strong Support

(By William L. Baker, Ketchikan)

Delegates to that grand convention of the boards of trade and chambers of commerce in Smithers last August will remember the friendly smile of Col. John S. Noyes, chairman of the Alaska road commission, and his plans for a 2-ferry system of passenger and auto-carrying vehicles to place on the run between Prince Rupert and Haines, Alaska, in the near future.

Colonel Noyes, the last time this writer saw him, said plans for the type of ferry he wants had been approved and accepted by his superiors in the U. S. Department of Interior and that he was with the bureau of the budget—which is President Truman's official scrutinizing agency—would begin before the end of the year.

Col. Noyes flew up to Smithers this week to explain the ferry system proposals to the Northwest Trade association convention. Then he plans to go to Washington for talks with interior department and bureau of the budget officials.

Col. Noyes has gathered considerable material to support the car ferry proposal. It is possible that he will call on Prince Rupert officials for more figures on traffic into that city, projected against the increase expected with Haines hotel facilities and with the opening of the Alcan highway next year. Southeastern Alaska has approximately 1200 cars and every once soon he'll take his Chamber to either Haines or Rupert for the circle tour.

Chief attraction of the ferry link would be its combination of driving and cruising through the scenic and glacier land of Southeastern Alaska. Another factor is the opportunity it would give for going to Alaska one way and returning another way.

Interior department officials, notably assistant Secretary William E. Warne, a recent Alaska visitor for several weeks, think the ferry would fit nicely into the proposed Alaska development corporation bill but that bill drew wide criticism in its original draft this fall. Heads of some interior department offices in Alaska think it might be better to let them handle the duties of the new development corporation without snarling a big federal agency onto the territory on the eve of statehood.

NEXT YEAR

A long distance guess right now is that the ferry, with some intense value, has better than a 50-50 chance in 1950, all feasible appropriation for surveys or perhaps to charter a ship for trial runs. Passing the congressional committee on public lands will want to make a survey trip of its own. Or perhaps the senate's committee, not having looked into Alaskan statehood on the spot, would include the ferry project on its agenda.

If a test or charter run is arranged for, Rupert's very able publicists may be called on to roll out their best. A chunk of Alaska salmon ice could be driven by dogteam over the first few miles of the Skeena highway to pave the way for the first ferry trip. But certainly Haines and Rupert residents can think of something unusual and very

SITKA—Public scene of Alaska Constitutional Convention and mails of Alaskan history, assembled in the auditorium of Sitka, U. S. A., by Stamps.

Pulpmen Here With 28 Cars

The Alaska Steamship Co. freighter Pulpmen, northbound from the southern United ports, docked here early last week with 28 cars, to unload 28 carloads of timber, for the construction of the mill at the eastern Canadian. The Pulpmen, under Captain Lorentz, has arrived in Ketchikan, last Wednesday.

Kink for
CLOVER LEAF
Salmon

HELLO ALASKA!
—from—
BILL SCUBY FURS
Exporters and Importers
Buyers and Sellers of RAW FURS

Ketchikan Pulp Mill

Big Rayon Mill May Soon Start near First City

By W. L. BAKER
Publisher, Ketchikan Chronicle

That period of anxious waiting which many fathers and mothers know on the eve of the stork's arrival—and which Prince Rupert was going through a year or so ago—is almost at an end for the Ketchikan Pulp and Paper company's big rayon mill. Ninety or 100 days more and the date will be set, it appears.

The Chronicle learned by wire shortly before this edition went to press that important new development in manufacture of wood pulp—use of magnesium instead of sulphur—is about 90 per cent out of the experimental stage and has few "bugs" left in it to puzzle the engineers.

The test operation at Weyerhauser's big plant in Longview, Wash., has satisfied production men as to control of product. Since alpha grade cellulose is a high-quality, carefully-washed product that goes into cellophane, plastics and textiles, the builders want to be sure they have a 100 per cent article before they invest millions in a new kind of mill

town along the route could stage a first class celebration as the maiden voyage of the first ferry ("49th Star" or "Northern Light" would be a good name for her) got under steam.

It'll really be something when Alaskans an "drive down to Rupert for dinner tonight" and see a little on the food into the gullet.

FASHION FOOTWEA
Joins In
Best Wishes
To Alaska
SERVICE AND STYLE IN FOOT W

ALASKANS—
Will Find a Real Welcome at the
SAVOY HOTEL
in Prince Rupert
W. L. WOODS, Proprietor

PRINCE RUPERT'S NEW AND UP-TO-DATE LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S WEAR DRY GOODS AND MEN'S FURNISHINGS STORE

Fraser & Pow

BEST WISHES ALASKANS!
Bob Parker Limited
THE HOME OF FRIENDLY SERVICE
FORD, MONARCH DEALERS