

Mr. HALEY. Are there any further questions?

Mr. BERRY. Only to comment, Mr. Chairman, that in looking at the map, you come from Point Barrow, probably the most northern point in the United States.

Mr. EDWARDSSEN. That is right.

Mr. BERRY. Our chairman, from Florida, comes from almost the most southern point. So this is quite an expansion between the two of you. Thank you.

Mr. HALEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Edwardsen.

Mr. POLLOCK. I would like to add to the comment that Carlie Edwardsen's home is the place where Will Rogers and Wiley Post were killed in 1935. Americans will never forget the place.

Mr. HALEY. I might say to the gentleman the late gentlemen were very good personal friends of mine. It was a great tragedy. At that particular time in the history of our country, I hope the gentleman noted, that the Congress, recognizing his great contribution to the American way of life, he made a request, if he was ever put in the Statuary Hall over here, that his statue be placed where he would be looking at the door of the Congress, and that is where they put it. He is keeping a sharp eye on us yet.

Mr. HALEY. The next witness is Mrs. Laura Bergt. Will you tell us who you are and who you represent?

May I say that you are the best looking witness we had today, and I appreciate you coming down here because I like to see a pretty young lady, even at my age.

**STATEMENT OF LAURA BERGT, MEMBER, NATIVE LAND CLAIMS TASK FORCE, MEMBER OF STATE REMOTE HOUSING COMMITTEE, STATE TOURISM ADVISORY BOARD AND STATE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, HEALTH, AND WELFARE**

Mrs. BERGT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, my name is Laura Bergt. I am a member of the native land claims task force. I am also a member of the State remote housing committee, State tourism advisory board, and the State committee on children and youth—health and welfare.

I was raised in Nome and Kotzebue and have lived in southeastern Alaska, Fairbanks, and in Barrow where I worked as a secretary in the hospital. I have traveled extensively throughout the State of Alaska, to the Arctic, interior, southeastern and the Koskokwin areas. Through this, I have become very well acquainted with the extreme poverty, poor housing, and health conditions of the natives throughout the State.

There are approximately 50,000 natives in Alaska. Approximately one-half of the native population is below 15 years of age. In 1955 Congress delegated health care for the Alaska natives to the division of Indian Health, USPHS, which is provided either directly through seven PHS hospitals in Alaska or by contract with private physicians in Kodiak, Wrangell, Nome, and Fairbanks. Preventive health services are jointly provided by the USPHS and the Public Health nurses of the State division of health through a contract.

The doctors at the USPHS, Barrow, Tanana, Kotzebue, Bethel, and Kakanak field hospitals make periodic visits to the various villages