

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Editorial Comment—

The Energy Crunch And the Natives

The energy shortage throughout the United States is certain to affect the everyday lives of Alaska's Native people. This probably will be much more felt in the far northern regions of the huge sprawling state, say, the Arctic Eskimo regions and the Interior Athabaskan Indian people. These people, through quite a few years now, have gotten used to using modern oil heat in their homes as well as skitting about through large areas of their surroundings using the handy snowmachine to go after their game for food. This means diesel fuel and gasoline.

We do not know, as yet, how the fuel cutbacks will affect the comparatively new mode of living but we do expect that some shortages will be experienced. Moderate shortages will probably not create serious situations but more than moderate cutbacks could cause some of the more remote villages to revert back to the days of seal or whale oil lamps to heat their homes. This mode of heating the Arctic abodes is still remembered by the older folks in some remote villages, which was very adequate when the sod type igloo was still in use.

If those Native people were to revert back to the use of the old type of heating homes, we also see some serious problems in gearing up for it. In the Eskimo areas, we see almost no problem in getting enough seal or whale oil since the sources of oil is still pretty much available. Athabaskan Indians, we surmise, might have more difficulty in getting the oil, or seal, since the moose is not as plentiful as it used to be but they have an alternative. They have forests around them they can tap. We are worried about the Eskimos who have no forests at all.

If the Eskimos were to revert back to their old way of lighting and heating their homes — and many or all of them now have modern frame type housing which are actually not as warm as the old sod igloo — they would be in pretty bad shape. They have sold all of their seal or whale oil lamps or the collectors have taken them to the farflung museums in every corner of the world. Getting them shipped back to the remote settlements would be like pulling a balen out of the bowhead whale.

What would be the answer to this monumental problem? Perhaps the Arctic Eskimos could once again ask their Canadian Arctic Eskimo cousins to manufacture the time proven oil lamp made out of talc or soapstone. This would once again establish a brisk trade which once flourished in the old days. The Canadian Eskimos could also have a big problem in gearing up for manufacture of talc lamps because they haven't made this product for a long, long time. The waiting period the Alaskan Eskimos would experience could prove disastrous.

But, anyhow, how will the energy shortage affect Alaska's remote villages?

— H. R.

Don Wright's Platform

Alaska gubernatorial candidate Don Wright has outlined the platform upon which he will base his candidacy in the 1974 general election.

Wright said that, if elected, he would grant title to 160 acres of land to all Alaska citizens, end state income taxes, provide free college education, provide free hospitalization to Alaskans, and end exploitation of resources by large businesses and foreign governments. He also pledged to "give ownership of government back to the people."

Letters from Here and There

Enrollment Office Hard To Contact

John L. Lombard
P. O. Box 1348584
Represa, Ca. 95671

Dear Mr. Rock;

Enclosed are copies of a letter to my former attorney, State Bar of California and all people at the enrollment office at Anchorage, this is what happens when a Eskimo asks help of his own people and can't get it.

You write of Mr. BigJim teaching the young people about the "ACT" in the University, thats wonderful, but in all these months I've been writing for my family, nobody has offered to teach us anything. Will my sons ever need to know any more about the "ACT"?

Is it too late for some of us out here? Are there any means of getting legal aid from a native group? The enclosed letter and papers show my need. The attorney was going to set trusts for my sons, I've yet to see a trust, much less the attorney.

If it wasn't for the Tundra Times, my friend and I would know less then we do, ALL we know was in the paper. Show this letter and papers to our peoples leaders, after all we out here who enrolled in our ancestral regions look to them for answers and help in judgement. They were our choice, not attorneys we went to in des-

peration.

Oh yes, want to say you should print all the names of Regional and Corporation leaders. Enrollment office was no help, how can one write to one he does not know.

Sincerely,
John L. Lombard

Micro and Macro Terms

Harvard University
Graduate School of Education
Cambridge, Massachusetts
November 9, 1973

Hon. Ted Stevens
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Stevens;

Sensible citizens watched with dismay the erosion of power in the legislative branches of government. Power was flowing grotesquely toward the executive branch. With the vote not to sustain Mr. Nixon's war making powers the ship of state seems on its way once again toward even keel.

Surely you are knowledgeable about the intent of the Constitution. Weren't you concerned about the determination of Congressional power? If so, why did you vote to sustain Mr. Nixon's veto on his war making ability? In micro terms you may have harmed your Alaska constituents; in macro terms you may have harmed the country.

Poem—

THE MINDS OF MEN

They start to tell you of the World when first you see them through your eyes.

Your mind is fresh and clear as snow and your interest never dies.

Thru those early dawn fresh days of birth and growth of mind and body.

They teach you things that you should know.

Things that time alone will sow.

Words they tell you that are true.

Words like trust, and knowledge, success and fame.

These your fruitful mind should accrue and claim.

They tell you of the feats of men and times long past before you came.

They tell you of the Nations strength and why the cause was fought.

And when through all the years of books and tests.

Through many days of quiet unrest, they change your mind and challenge your choice of why's and how's that you have voiced.

They never tell you what to say, instead they'll argue which way is best for you to pray.

They say "don't cry and be a man".

But yet they never tell you how you can.

These famous words you'd hear back then.

In the twilight of your teens.

So now you're here amongst the crowd, your mind is free to voice your choice but yet you wait.

You hesitate.

And then they tell you it's late.

"Decisions must be made and done, for us to operate" "Decisions must be made for us but not through minds that will dictate".

And decide upon our fate.

These words you hear and take to heart and then decide you will not hide or hesitate, your thoughts and choices you make clear for those who take the time to hear.

You've come into yourself, a man, deciding now the why's and how's of life and people far and near and opinions that you hear.

You find that all will not go well, if you make yourself compell the other minds of men to hear the truth behind the lies.

The reasons why they act so strong, if perhaps, they only be so strong, if perhaps, they only be wrong.

The reasons why they maybe laugh, when the time is near to shed a tear.

Your mind goes back in memory then.

To the phrase that you heard a lie back then and still a lie to those that say.

"Be a man and do not cry" After all to feel your thoughts and express yourself, to say "Be Real" and be sincere.

Is a human thing that one can't hide, or in hearing lies, in those abide.

— Phil Kelly

Sincerely,

s/ Jerry K. Bolton
(Metlakatla, Alaska)

cc: Tundra Times

Stickman's Oil Stove Goes Out

Nulato, Alaska
Nov. 20, 1973

Dear Friend:

This morning the house was cold. Oil stove is out. Built a fire in the wood stove, set up the electric heater, went out to look — 48 below — 5:00 a.m.

Now it's too dark to see what's wrong with my oil so I started to write to tell you. You never get stuck in this world if you use your head.

All these years back, my folks always had canoes and boats every spring before the breakup, in front of the house or tent wherever we were — ready if there was a flood.

When the oil stove starts to give me trouble after five years, I feel like throwing it out. I can fix anything with spark plugs but this oil stove got no plugs.

Fred Stickman, Sr.

Beware of These Bills

November 22, 1973

Dear Sirs:

Beware the following house and senate bills:

HR-4690
HR-13489
HR-1272
HR-5917
S-1742
S-1637

These bills would stop the use of steel jaw traps and snares and deprive bush Alaskans of Inupiat Pitot and a much needed source of income.

No more rabbit snaring, beaver trapping, etc. if these bills pass.

We need your support to flood Washington D. C. with letters opposing these bills.

Please help us.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Delia

Skwentna, Alaska 99667

Deplorable Nulato School

October 22, 1973

To: Honorable Governor William A. Egan
Office of the Governor
State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska

From: Richard Harnett, Principal
Nulato School
Nulato, Alaska 99765

A deplorable situation exists at Nulato School with respect to the custodial services provided by the Alaska State-Operated School System. We have 130 students in grades 1 through 10. There are 16 instructional staff members including instructional aides.

Alaska State-Operated Schools provides only 1 custodial position to maintain a facility which has 17 buildings including 6 out-houses. Numerous letters and verbal communication to the central office in Anchorage have had no results.

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