

Who Pays?—

# If Oil Ruins Resources

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
SENATE

President of the Senate  
Legislative Council

April 24, 1972

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mr. Howard Rock, Editor  
TUNDRA TIMES  
Box 1287  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Dear Mr. Rock:

### WHO PAYS?

Alaskans are told there is little to fear in transporting oil by pipeline and tanker. The likelihood of oil spills damaging fisheries, game, fur bearers or waterfowl, they say, is very small. Many Alaskans believe this. Some do not.

Cordova fishermen, for example, consider the tankering of oil through their fishery area as a one-sided game of "Resources Russian Roulette." Interior Native villagers, dependent upon hunting, fish or trapping, are equally nervous.

Mrs. Ann Frank of Minto said it well when she testified for Senate Bill 374 in front of the Resources Committee. She asked simply: "Who pays? Who pays if due to oil a trapline is wiped out? Who pays if the fish are gone? Who pays if the caribou go away?"

Unless legislation such as Senate Bill 374 passes, the answer is simple: the fisherman, the trapper, and the hunter pay. Not the oil companies. Not the State. Not the Federal Government.

Some of us believe the last one to pay should be the fisherman, hunter, or trapper. Because of this belief we support legislation which would make those responsible for transporting the oil liable in case of damage to an individual's livelihood.

If the Federal Government issues a permit to transport oil they should be responsible for the consequence of that fact. If the State in turn promotes the action, they too should be responsible. Not so.

We cannot impose liability upon the government, we do not impose it upon the state. We do impose it limitedly upon the oil companies but only insofar as damages to the state, not damages to the little guy. This is wrong.

If we must sell out a fisherman, a trapper or hunters in return for oil development, let's at least charge the going price. Let's not simply throw them in as a "door prize."

Somehow outsiders have gotten the impression that Alaskans are more concerned with money than environment; that we're willing to plow up and plunder Alaska and then pave it over. Senate Bill 374 is one way to show them they're mistaken.

If it's a good gamble that tankers and a pipeline are almost fail-safe oil companies should be perfectly willing to put their money where their tube is.

JAY HAMMOND  
President of the Senate

## Letters from Here and There

### *'Forget Wildwood, Concentrate On Villages'*

Box 90197 U of A  
Fairbanks, Ak. 99701  
April 15, 1972

To the Editor:

Despite papers to do and tests to take, I find time to read your fine paper on native affairs. Native education, especially high school education, has caught my eye since I am a senior majoring in secondary education and plan a teaching career in Alaska.

Out of the bucket comes Wildwood Air Force base, and a talk of a temporary regional school there. Then the "tear Edgcombe" issue is here. Also Rep. Moore's suit against the state for neglecting to build a school, and the rural teachers frustrated over their superintendent. These education issues hopefully will reach the minds of the villagers in matters concerning their children.

I am very much in favor of the regional school but am very unhappy with the course of events that have happened in the past few weeks. These ideas should not just be passed as the truth and I want my criticisms known:

1. Regional high schools should now be planned for in the larger villages. Barrow is a prime example where there should already have been a high school.

2. Let us forget Wildwood and concentrate our efforts on the villages. Because, one, education does not always belong in the classroom, meaning a family-community relationship is important for a maturing student and where else but in the community is this best? Possibly this will halt the youth from moving from the villages. Second, it will be economically unsound in the long run to set up a temporary school, then set up high schools ten years from now when they should have been there five years ago. Inflation will spiral up the costs of the schools later.

3. Long range plans by the state education department

should be made public as far as rural education is concerned.

4. Natives are people who are not all "vocational training" oriented. Regional schools should give the student an option as to whether to train or go on to college. How can more natives go into teaching when there exists schools like Beltz "Vocational" High School.

Education of the rural people can only be directed by the parents of the rural community and it is up to their state representatives to voice their feelings.

Sincerely,

Sam Towarak

### *Tanana Chiefs Back Mayor Rice*

April 24, 1972

Mr. Julian C. Rice, Mayor  
Mail Box 790  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mayor Rice:

In accordance with desiring to assist all persons throughout Alaska, the Tanana Chiefs Conference specifically endorses and supports your request for an intensive investigation to the compliance of local hotels with state and city fire codes.

The terrible fire which gutted the Nordale Hotel should serve as a prime example of what can occur when the official parties, delegated with the duty to protect the public, are derelict in the exercise of this duty.

Numerous persons from the areas outside of Fairbanks travel through the city and frequent the many hotels. On many occasions, they stay at the hotel in the main business section of Fairbanks. We have heard stated that many of these hotels, especially in the business area, are substandard and definitely do not meet the fire codes of Fairbanks and comply with the regulations as to building.

The Tanana Chiefs are vitally interested in assuring the better welfare of its people and we will go to any means by which to protect them.

Be assured that we will support you and anyone else in every way to force compliance

with fire regulations in Fairbanks, and to insure that those persons who are responsible to the public to guarantee them a certain amount of safety, do in fact take on this responsibility.

Very sincerely,

John Sackett  
President

### *Begich Supports North Star III*

Congressman Nick Begich  
Alaska  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 27, 1972

Mr. Elmer B. Staats  
Comptroller General of the  
United States  
General Accounting Office  
441 G Street  
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Staats:

This is in regard to the GAO's recommendation to discontinue the Bureau of Indian Affairs' operation of their vessel, NORTH STAR III.

I am in receipt of a transcript of proceedings of the exit interview between the GAO and the BIA in January, 1972. You should know that I support the Bureau's position and do not wish to see the NORTH STAR III service replaced by commercial barge service.

Although the GAO contends that such a change would bring a savings of \$300,000.00 to the federal budget, I am not convinced that this would be of benefit to those villages who depend on the operation of the NORTH STAR III; in fact, I doubt it very much.

The NORTH STAR III provides incalculable services in keeping with a sort of tradition that brings excitement and a time of highlight to the Alaskan villagers who look for the arrival of the BIA vessel. A commercial barge service, simply, would not care enough to provide the extras that have been assumed over the years by the BIA.

If one thinks in terms of human beings rather than dollars,

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