

Box 861

Tok, Alaska

Aug. 8, 1966

Dear Editor:

I have attended two Democratic district conventions carrying proxies for several native villages. While it would be better for them to send their own delegates, a proxy is better than no representative.

I had been appalled to go to conventions to find practically no native participation.

The second convention these proxy votes were put to very good use—to support a change in district rules. Ray Christiansen was active in this movement.

After a prolonged floor fight the principle was established that "All precinct chairmen are members of the District Committee and have a vote." This means every village is a precinct—their Democrats can elect a voting member to the District Committee (13th, 14th, 15th, 16th districts). When you look at a map and see the number of villages, you can realize what an influence for good legislation you have, if you will use it. You don't need a "great white father." Come in and speak for yourselves!

Sincerely,

Millie Terwilliger