

"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—

Organizational Unity

The preparation for the native land claims legislation in the United States Congress is reaching a fever pitch and along with it, calls for a unified front among native organizations is being made. There is a good-sized worry that the unified status of the organizations may not be easily attained. If it is not, we hear, a bill might be drawn up based on a governmental agency's report.

A big push is being made to pass some kind of a land bill during the current session of the 91st Congress, at least through the Senate. It is being thought in some circles that the U.S. House of Representatives will probably pass its version of the bill next year. The House, however, is expected to be working on the bill during the current session. To what extent is not known, of course.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson is spearheading the move for a unified front by all concerned wielding something of a club based on the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska's report on "Alaska Natives and the Land" and which has a chapter in it entitled, "Framework for Decision."

Sen. Jackson's feelings, according to reliable sources, are that if the native organizations and others concerned did not come up with a draft of a bill that is satisfactory to all, and if this is delayed by discord, he will draft a bill based on the recommendations of the Federal Field Committee's report. The report leans primarily on money settlement on the native land claims and minimum land awards for the native people of Alaska. The time period of drafting a satisfactory bill would be within a six-week's time.

Members of the Alaska Federation of Natives board of directors will be prominently figured in drafting of the bill. The organization will also have the difficult task of smoothing over whatever differences that may exist among the regional native organizations.

The working agreement among the native organizations under a good unified atmosphere seems imperative at this time. If this is not achieved, it looks as if the governmental attitude of, "This is the way we want you to do it," will be imposed as in the past without the say of our native people. If Sen. Jackson is forced to draft a bill based on the Federal Field Committee's report, it will pretty much amount to that.

At any rate, the "Alaska Natives and the Land" at first glance seems to be a work of considerable stature well done enough to impress many people including influential men like Sen. Henry M. Jackson. The contents are imposing and the recommendations for the land settlement seem generous except for the cut of land awards from 40 million acres of land the native people want to four (4) to seven (7) million acres. That part of the work is being looked at with very critical eyes by the native people and their leaders. We hope that their concern of this one facet, at least, will be well considered. This is no light matter to keep in mind because it is a matter of extreme importance. Ask any man in the world.

Letters to the Editor

Feb. 9, 1969

Dear Editor:

Just because my Mom and Dad, couldn't speak a word of English and I had a little schooling, that's when I was going to school, I thought I was smart and I knew more than them. This is how dumb I was.

They always respect the old people and help the old, then you will live as long as them. Listen to the old people. This is what some of them say, "Gee, you're getting fat, pot-bellied, Gee, look at your hair, When you going to retire?" Some of them old men, etc. I don't think I'm old yet as long as I'm working.

Last time I saw my Dad was in March one month before he passed away. I remember I just got married, my wife was 100 miles away that morning in March. That time of the year you have to travel early while the snow is hard. Soon as the sun gets up it warms up and hard and slow going.

So I was up early, had breakfast. As I was putting on my mocassins, my Dad started talking to me. This how smart he was:

"Son, you going to be in trouble a lot after I pass away. This might be the last time you see me. You will be arrested quite a few times but not to stay in jail. You're going to live a long time. You're going to make a lot of money but you won't save any. This is how you are going to have a long life. If you get rich, the money will kill you. Your wife won't live long. Your brother won't live long, but you will live long.

"So I don't care how much schooling you have don't think you're better than someone."

Experience is the best teacher. Think I'll make a good teacher.

When you build all the schools, don't forget to build a pioneer home for the Indians, especially.

I'm paying tax now—one third of my wages.

—FRED STICKMAN

February 11, 1969

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have been trying to keep up with the changes taking place since the past two years or so. I know that there are encouraging changes among our native people in all three areas of life—economy, politics, and organization.

Subjectively, I would like to explain some new things that might be good to know and be aware of. These "things" could happen if they are not happening today:

1) "Land Freeze" has become one of our topics, which reflects our thinking, and our future setting. One must not forget that land freeze could go on for another decade, and certain things could happen to Natives in the following way:

a) long duration of land freeze could cause Natives and their leaders to break down, or "quit" trying to get their land back, and thus, help some others to lease or sell any land to any speculator. This may be what a speculator is waiting for.

b) taking land piece by piece by any speculator could trigger a sudden large sectional leasing or selling until any group of Natives and their leaders come to break down, or given no chance. This is starting.

2) Thinking now in terms of the future, awareness of certain expectations is what all natives should keep in mind. Once an action starts, it should not be given up if helpful.

State Health, Welfare Poses Position Paper On Marijuana Use

(Third and Conclusion)

"Smoking marijuana, or pot, produces feelings of well-being and also sensory distortions. These effects, though similar in kind to LSD and other potent hallucinogens, are far less intense. Ironically, this is marijuana's chief danger, because the user may try stronger substances, including heroin," (THE CRUTCH THAT CRIPPLES: DRUG DEPENDENCE, Committee on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence, Council on Mental Health, American Medical Association, 1968.)

It appears that with the exception of a very few experimenters interested in therapeutic values, marijuana experiments have been made either by those seeking publicity or by persons who have used marijuana and/or other drugs and who may be laboring under guilt complexes trying to justify their illegal actions through bold statements that marijuana is harmless. The motivation of an experimenter is always important in introducing unseen variables. Subconscious variables are too easily introduced by any experimenter who is not motivated solely by the scientific and ethical desire to seek validated conclusions.

The Swedish press has apparently faced emerging facts on marijuana. Roland Huntford, writing for the London Observer, said, "Apologetics for marijuana, not uncommon in the Stockholm newspapers some time ago, have disappeared, to be replaced with attacks on the dangers of all drugs. The line is that so little is known of the effects of marijuana that nobody can say that it is safe, and that all experience shows that it is often the prelude to habit-forming drugs like heroin." (ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS, December 1968.)

Harold W. Tobey, District Attorney, First Judicial District, State of Alaska, has quoted Dr. David P. Ausubel, author of several books on drug abuse, as saying about marijuana that chronic users go to great lengths to insure that they will not be without the drug. SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA EMPIRE WEEKENDER, December 1968.)

There is probability of purchasing marijuana of unknown potency which can produce unexpected results. Dr. James C. Munch in UNITED NATIONS BULLETIN ON NARCOTICS, Vol. XVIII, No. 2, April-June 1966, indicates that marijuana harms the nervous system by creating hallucinations, delirium, alternate laughing and crying. Chronic exposure produces brain lesions. Toxicity: There is a reported lethal oral dose (to humans) of 2 grams/kg charas; 8 grams/kg gnaja; 10 grams/kg bhang (powdered dried leaves). It is more toxic when smoke is inhaled.

The same United Nations bulletin said that information from Brazil stated: "The addict is soon a useless and harmful member of society. . . They will not work but turn to petty thieving and robbery to keep themselves alive. . ." (UNITED NATIONS BULLETIN ON NARCOTICS, April-June 1966.)

H.B.M. Murray, M.D., Ph.D., in THE CANNABIS HABIT, a study distributed by Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario; Toronto, Ontario, Canada: ". . . where the drug is regularly taken, and in considerable quantity, the main characteristic is sloth or lethargy. . . it is clear that there is still much to be learnt about the effects of cannabis on the human mind."

"After careful appraisal of available information concerning marihuana (cannibis) and its components, and their derivatives, analogues and isomers," the Council on Mental Health and the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of the American Medical Association and the Committee on Problems of Drug Dependence of the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, have reached a conclusion among others, that "Cannibis is a dangerous drug and as such is a public health concern. . . there is no reason to assume that, just because custom and mores made a mockery of alcohol prohibition, marihuana prohibition is unworkable or undesirable." (Journal of the American Medical Association, June 24, 1968.)

Dr. Andrew T. Weil, Mt. Zion Hospital, San Francisco, who co-conducted the publicized Boston Marijuana report, said, ". . . I would not minimize the effects of marijuana on brain function." (San Francisco Chronicle, December 1968.)

Those uninterested in the moral and health problems which marijuana causes should carefully consider the costly taxes it can generate to care for large numbers of unmotivated people.

(Continued on page 6)

Sen. Gravel Announces SBA Declares Three Villages as Disaster Areas

Senator Mike Gravel announced that the deputy administrator of the Small Business Adminis-

tration declared the villages of Soldotna, Ridgeway and Sterling as disaster areas due to flooding on or about January 19.

Disaster applications will be accepted at the Anchorage Regional Office. 42 homes and two businesses suffered damages due to flooding of the Hanai River.

3) Some things that are told to be helpful to any native group are sometimes negating which result in unbeneficial manner.

What we are doing today with our own native population is a moral issue, whether it be in education, or land claims. Also, this transition among our native population is the part of the universal movement of the minority groups in the world. It is the law of today.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Name on File

WANTED: Chilkat Blankets; totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; pot-latch bowls; fish hooks; spoons and all N.W. items 50 years of age or older. Send photo or sketch and prices to: Albert T. Miller, 2235 West Live Oak Drive, Los Angeles, California 90028.