

"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—

Focal Points at Cities Of Nome and Bethel

Many an eye and ears will be focussed at the cities of Nome and Bethel where the sea mammal hearings will be held starting tomorrow. The most anxious ones will be those of the coastal Eskimos and the Aleuts on the Aleutian Chain and Pribilof Islands who depend heavily on the sea mammals for food and clothing and for the basic ingredients of their cultures.

The Native folks are fearful that some of their most important needs will be wiped out by congressional legislation brought on by animal protectionists who knew very little about the modes of living in the Arctic and who knew nothing about the cultural facets of our Native people. That very fact is NO basis for the current sea mammal legislation. It is artificial and baseless.

We also hope that our own United States Senators Mike Gravel and Ted Stevens will serve as understanding eyes and ears for their colleagues in the Senate. There is no doubt that they will be hearing plenty, and what they will hear will be from authorities who know what they are talking about — the Native people themselves. We hope that what they will see and hear will be all the things that will help them to truly transcend the message to their colleagues in Congress. We also know they have better knowledge of the situations in Alaska than some of their fellow lawmakers. They can help to educate the rest of the nation about the true picture of the cultural facts of our Native people. They can be of great service to their state and to the nation as well.

Nome and Bethel hearings will not be easy assignments for Ted Stevens and Mike Gravel. We also know that from trying moments, great achievement can come forth that can live on far into the future. We are sure, however, that the Senators will be equal to the task. We also know that what they will hear will reflect the true situation — the relationships of man with sea mammals in Alaska.

OPEN LETTER ON SEA MAMMALS

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL LEGISLATORS AND STAFF MEMBERS

On May 11 and 12, a group of United States Senators will be in Alaska to conduct hearings on the proposed legislation banning all taking of ocean mammals. The hearing, granted at the last moment, is to provide information from the people whom the legislation will most vitally affect: the Eskimos, Aleuts, and Indians. It is our most fervent hope that the testimony received will result in the necessary amendments to the Senate bills which will allow Alaskan natives to hunt, fish and utilize ocean mammals in the way they have been doing for several thousand years.

But, we hear from reliable sources in Washington that the emotional climate against any use of ocean mammals is so intense that the amendments are not likely to remain in the final version of the bill. The original intention of protecting several endangered species of whale has been blurred into a save-all-the-ocean-mammals issue that fails to take into consideration traditions and resource control principles of the welfare of Alaskan natives. Many thousands of dollars have been spent by national conservation groups in a highly effective advertising campaign. Their effectiveness can be measured by the vote on March 9 of the House of Representatives (362-10) for a bill which would ban all use.

Needless to say, this law would wipe out the ancient native cultures and severely limit the economy of the already hard-pressed Eskimos, Indians, and Aleuts. The impact upon the state's economy, its character, and artistic heritage would be tremendous.

(Continued on page 4)

Readers Gain Major Acceptance—

Primary Readers Expanded from 17 to 154 Rural Schools

"I am an Alaskan" is the theme of a set of primary readers and English language workbooks developed from 1966 and put into 17 test schools in 1968.

By this year, the program had achieved major acceptance in the Alaskan rural schools and expanded to 154 schools in remote areas all over Alaska.

Meeting in Anchorage on May 2-3, an evaluation committee composed of many segments of Alaskan interests, recommended the continued use of the materials with further development along localized and regional lines. They also suggested closer integration with bilingual materials.

These newer additions will not only say "I am an Alaskan" but will add, "I am an Athabascan" or "I am Tlingit" or "I am an Aleut" and so on, making use of the rich cultural differences that exist in Alaska.

The Anchorage meeting was attended by Jenny Alowa of the

Alaska Federation of Natives, Mrs. Winifred Lande of the Alaska Rural Schools Project, Jean Harlow from the State Department of Education, representatives of the State Operated Schools, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the University of Alaska, and the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratories of Oregon, who coordinated and published the materials, working closely with the Alaskan groups.

The evaluation committee called for even greater involvement and responsibility by the Alaskan agencies, extended teacher training in use of the series, local publishing, integration with the bilingual program, and local and regional native involvement in the future development of the program.

Following the Anchorage meeting, Dr. Rackley and Dr. Hamilton flew to Fairbanks to meet with Native leaders attending the ASHES board meeting

at Wood Center.

They also met informally with the staff of the Eskimo Language Workshop at the University of Alaska, Irene Reed, Michael Krauss, Pat Afcan, and many of the writers and artists instrumental in the production of the Eskimo language books for children.

There was a productive exchange of ideas from both sides on the question of developing culturally relevant materials, the increase of the self-concept of Native children, the correlation of language patterns between the Native and the English languages, and the use of Alaskan artists and writers for greater authenticity.

Dr. Hamilton of the Northwest Laboratory clearly felt that this is a transition period for the Alaskan Readers Series. The first efforts, although well-received and a much welcome

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Letters from Here and There

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Washington, D.C. 20310

Honorable Nick Begich
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Begich:

On behalf of President Nixon, I am replying to your letter of April 4, 1972 regarding the reduction of Army force levels in Alaska.

I fully share your concern for the defense of Alaska. However, Army strength has recently been drastically reduced. From end FY 71 through FY 73 the Army is currently projected to be reduced by 282,500 personnel — to accomplish this the Army must reduce its forces at a rate faster than any time since our cutbacks following WW II. Once completed, Army forces will be 128,600 below what they were prior to the build-up to support Vietnam. While accomplishing these reductions it is essential that the Army maintain a visible combat capability, both in our CONUS and deployed forces where they are making a substantial contribution to an effective deterrent posture. Considering all these factors the 4,000 reduction in Army defense forces in Alaska is required. To

the best of our ability the majority of this reduction will come from non-combat type units.

Under these circumstances it is necessary for us to place increased reliance upon our ability to reinforce Alaska's remaining units during a period of tension or other emergency. I can assure you that aircraft and troops are available for commitment to Alaska should this become necessary. In addition, we are giving the forces remaining in Alaska the greatest possible combat potential. The remaining brigade will have three infantry battalions, only one less than in the two brigades now in Alaska. This brigade will have available to it twice the present helicopter lift. The increased mobility afforded the remaining three infantry battalions should offset to some degree the loss of the one infantry battalion.

Historically, the valuable Fort Wainwright — Fort Greely training area complex has been paramount in the support of any arctic training programs and field exercises. The Army's recognition of the need for arctic-trained and arctic-equipped forces continues and I foresee increased participation in such programs by units of the 9th Division at Fort Lewis as well as other selected Army units.

Sincerely yours,

Robert R. Williams
Lieutenant General, GS
Assistant Chief of Staff
for Force Development

Sincerely yours,

Timothy Notah, Chairman
Haskell Alumni Library Fund

Box 112
Juneau, Alaska 99801
May 4, 1972

Dear Mr. Rock:

In your April 26, 1972 issue of the Times you have some pictures of the Tlingit and Haida Indians Convention held at Petersburg, Alaska. One picture showed an attache case as belonging to Roger W. Lang. The case belongs to Robert W. Loeschner. I did the tooling on the leather for Mr. Loeschner a couple of years ago. Roger Lang's initials are R.J.L.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Martin, Sr.

Poem—

HAPPY

How does it feel to be happy?
For others, I don't really know.
But for me, I'm happy to be alive.
Especially today, I made Adeline laugh

By writing her a nutty note.
And she laughed a happy laugh.
I'm glad I painted you a picture.
Hope you like it.

Also this evening I saw
An eagle, high in the sky,
A spot of sunlight
On a distant hill.
I'm happy because
I know where I am
And some day I'll know
What I am, but just now
I'm happy.

By PHIL MORENO

Haskell Alumni Association
Haskell Indian Junior College
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

AN OPEN LETTER TO
FORMER HASKELL
STUDENTS:

The Haskell Alumni is carrying on with its Library Fund Drive. This Fund has reached the amount of \$61,482. All but \$5482 of this amount has been turned over to Haskell Indian Junior College thus far to be used by the Haskell Library to aid in its efforts in achieving junior college standards

The William Donner Foun-