

*"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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## Billion \$ Industry

### COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Tanana District  
1514 S. Cushman Rm. 303  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Jan. 24, 1974

Mr. John Sackett, President  
Doyon, Limited  
Pouch B  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mr. Sackett:

Here are some figures which we put together relative to Interior Alaska's "sleeping" billion dollar industry. We have expressed into monetary value the potential for agricultural soils in Interior Alaska to produce barley. These figures are based on Tanana Valley production in 1970-72. We also extended income possibilities into animal production. This is a renewable resource that has possibilities of being expanded rather than depleted by the year 2000, and beyond. We would be glad to discuss further with you and others; some of the opportunities as we see them in Interior Alaska for agriculture.

The Tanana River Basin has 3 1/4 million acres of tillable land, Upper Yukon River Basin almost five million acres, the Lower Yukon (below Tanana) 1 3/4 million acres, a total of 10 million acres, as shown by the Soil Conservation Service soil map. If we cut this in half and say five million acres had been in production in the years 1970-73, and that we were producing only barley, a very low income per acre crop as compared to horticulture crops, we would have had a 250 million dollar income, more than any other single resource developed in the state at present. These figures are based on a yield of 1,000 lbs. (20 bu.) per acre, selling for \$50. Research has shown that we can produce 4,000 lbs. of barley per acre with proper fertilization and management practices. This would have generated a one billion dollar income. Had all of this been channeled into producing milk, beef, pork or poultry, we could have further increased this income to at least two billion dollars. Total barley production in U.S. last year was 424 million bushels (about 40 bushels per ton). Our production would have been 200 million bushels had we produced 2,000 lbs. per acre, a 1/2 billion dollar income, nearly 1/2 the total national production.

Income from the sale of grain, meat, milk or poultry is only a small portion of the income that would be generated. Transportation, sale of machinery, fertilizer and supplies could generate more jobs and income than would actually be in the farming enterprises.

In 1972 Alaskans consumed on an average of 80.37 lbs. of beef per person, 39.3 lbs. of pork, 33.5 lbs. of poultry, 168.9 lbs. of fresh and recombinant milk. We produced in Alaska per individual, 1.6 lbs. of beef, 0.4 lbs. of pork, .19 lbs. of poultry, 56.29 lbs. of milk. These figures are from the Institute of Agricultural Sciences and the Alaska Agricultural Statistics, 1972. Putting this in terms of dollars shipped out of Alaska for food, which we can produce, beef \$23,610,000, pork \$11,700,000, poultry \$9,990,000, milk at \$8,400,000, eggs \$5,000,000 for a total of \$58,700,000 just to meet the needs of Alaskans. Approximately 25% of this stayed in Alaska for labor and profit to the dealers, this still leaves a \$44,000,000 outflow from Alaska for the above five food items. Production and processing of vegetables consumed could again mean millions of dollars remaining in Alaska.

As our population approaches the 500,000 mark, we will have passed the \$100,000,000 mark being shipped out of Alaska annually, about 1/4 of our 1974 state budget. If this money could be turned over four times in the state, not an unreasonable figure, then that would be equal to our 1974 budget being exported to buy food which we are capable of producing.

To sell this volume of grain, meat, milk or poultry products means looking to foreign markets. Again this would be no big problem. Look at the items we buy from the stores in Alaska and see how many are made in foreign countries. Look further and see what our foreign deficit is, several billion dollars in 1973.

Many of us believe the agricultural potential is being pushed to the back, at a time when our own state is importing meat, milk, eggs and grain to the tune of \$58 million per year.

It takes much longer to do research and develop varieties of crops for agriculture than it does to explore an oil field and make the fuel to run our machines. Resources must be committed now to explore this billion dollar annual income for Interior Alaska (agriculture). Research must come first, to know what we can produce

## Letters from Here and There

### Pipeline Road On Caribou Mt.

Jan. 15, 1974  
Hughes, Alaska 99745

Dear Mr. Richards:

It's interesting to note that that the proposed trans-Alaska pipeline/road will pass right over the same Caribou Mt. that you so light-heartedly reported contained thousands of wintering caribou in the Jan. 9, 1974 edition of Tundra Times.

According to, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Jan. 10, 1974, page A-1-2, the pipeline haul road should be open north of the Yukon River by the end of January, and unless I am interpreting this information incorrectly, that means the road between Prospect Creek camp north of Caribou Mt. and the Yukon River ice bridge south of Caribou Mt. shall soon be completed and in use right over the same caribou wintering grounds you've mentioned.

It sort of makes you sick thinking about it, doesn't it?  
Michael Kroenke

### Misimpression On Pipeline

Dear Friend of Alaska:

Now that the President has signed the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act, there is a widespread misimpression that construction of the line already has begun. As many as 600 persons come to Alaska each month in search of nonexistent pipeline construction jobs. At best these people are disappointed. Unfortunately, many entire families find themselves stranded, cold and homeless without prospect of relief.

Alyeska began several months ago a campaign through the news media to correctly inform job seekers about pipeline employment. This campaign, has been expanded recently to in-

clude advertisements, television newsclips and free informational brochures. But many hundreds still learn the truth too late and often tragically.

Perhaps you may have an opportunity to prevent even one such unfortunate occurrence, by sending this letter to a newspaper or an appropriate organization, by posting it in a conspicuous and appropriate place, or by passing it along to an interested friend or acquaintance.

The truth is construction has not begun, and none will begin until many outstanding legal and administrative hurdles are crossed. Furthermore, when this activity does commence, Alyeska will award contracts for the work to various construction companies. These firms will do all the hiring of workmen.

Therefore, applications for these jobs should not be submitted to Alyeska. Persons seeking construction jobs should watch for announcements of the award of contracts and the start of construction in the press and in trade journals, and apply directly to selected contractors.

Above all, we recommend that no one come to Alaska in search of a job. Job seekers should be certain before coming that jobs are available here for them. The unemployment rate in the State is the highest in the nation. The winters are the longest and the most severe. Furthermore, there is an Alaska law giving job preference to Alaskans.

We're trying to make these facts known to prevent hardship. Thank you for helping.  
Sincerely yours,  
John F. Ratterman  
Public Affairs

Wayne Raney No. 132970  
P.O. Box 787  
Lucasville, Ohio 45648

My friend:  
I am Indian. I'm hoping that

and at what cost, before we can compete in a world market. Resources must be committed by the state of Alaska, the University, USDA, other federal agencies, and private corporations to meet "tomorrow's" food needs.

The staff of the Tanana District Cooperative Extension Service would encourage you and other concerned Alaskans to begin now to "develop" our agricultural potential. We propose the following steps be taken:

1. Support agricultural research organizations in Alaska and don't let the "farmer" have to determine if many of our agricultural enterprises are economically feasible.
2. Assist the State of Alaska's Department of Agriculture, University of Alaska and others to set long-term goals and policies.
3. Explore markets, world-wide if necessary, to sell our renewable resources from agriculture.
4. Pursue all avenues of possible assistance with agricultural production, especially USDA in Washington, private foundations and other interested organizations.
5. Include in the plans, habitat development for Alaska's fish and wildlife. Bison in the Delta grain area have never been as healthy as they are today.

The success or failure of developing Interior Alaska's agricultural potential will depend to a large extent on the commitment and leadership shown by the Tanana Chiefs Conference. You, the Athabaskan people, will own or control more than 75% of these lands that have a potential of a one billion dollar per year income, based on 1973 prices of barley. Turning this into red meat, milk, poultry or other food products could easily double this income.

Sincerely,  
Ray Morgan  
Community Development Agent  
Virgil Severns  
Agriculture and Youth Agent

cc: Tundra Times  
Commissioner of Natural Resources  
State Department of Agriculture  
Dr. James W. Matthews, Cooperative Extension Service  
Mitch Demientieff, Tanana Chiefs Conference  
Institute of Agricultural Sciences  
Interior Alaska Legislators

you can be of some assistance to me. I'm doing a life sentence in prison here in Ohio. Prison life can be very lonely at times, but even more so when you do not receive much mail. Is it possible that you could run an ad in your paper for me, to help me seek correspondence? It would please me very much to hear from my red brothers and sisters on the Outside.

What is your fee for a subscription to your newspaper? For one year? If it isn't too much I'd like to take it out for a year.

Thank you very much,  
A brother behind bars,  
Wayne

### Sealaska Asked To Seek Solicitor's Opinion

Hydaburg Town Council  
Hydaburg, Alaska  
90922

Jan. 14, 1974  
Comm. Morris Thompson  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20245

Dear Commissioner Thompson:

The following is the delivery rendered to the stockholders of Sealaska Corporation of Southeastern Alaska; relative to the upcoming election three months following end of fiscal year. We would appreciate the solicitor's opinion to be rendered to all villages composing Sealaska. Circular of Jan. 3, 1974 to stockholders of Sealaska Corp., "Your Sealaska management will propose a slate of nominees as candidates for election to the Board of Directors." It was explained by the representative of Sealaska that Federal Securities Commission required by law a payment of four thousand dollars for a corporation to solicit proxy votes, and that only the nominating committee set up from the Board of Directors would have the authority to cast such votes, that even if the villages elected their representative on the slate of nominees the villages cannot cast their own proxy votes. The report from the Alaska Native Foundation states, "That sources say that no problems are anticipated in obtaining the exemption from the 1940 act, which require strict reporting standards for a corporation if more than 40 percent of its assets are invested in securities. The exemption would extend through 1975, or until the corporations have obtained title to assets in land."

Contrary to Commissioner Thompson's report to the Alaska Native Brotherhood Convention that Sealaska will pick no lands, the President of Sealaska asserts that Sealaska Corp. will pick two hundred thousand acres of land.

We have only handbooks on Corporation law, but General corporation laws of the United States are binding on States; consequently in many, perhaps all of the states, only stockholders or those holding proxies for them can vote at a general election. Many questions have arisen between pledgors and pledgees about their rights to vote the pledged stock. Again a pledgor who pledges his stock in good faith but in turn enables the pledgees to vote it and effect an unlawful purpose, (such as to perpetuate himself on themselves

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