

What others say...

Senator supports local hire

To Mr. Swetzof:

I read your guest column of May 11 on local hire.

I am enclosing a copy of the local hire bill which I introduced. You will note that it is not just an Alaska hire bill, but a true local hire bill in which preference by area is provided for.

I think it is important to note that the pending proposals for local hire do include regionalization or local com-

munity hiring preferences. Indeed, we are told that it is only in that way that we can overcome constitutional obstacles to our efforts.

I appreciate your interest and support for local hire and your work in keeping the issue before *Tundra Times* readers.

Sincerely,
Sen. Joe P. Josephson
Anchorage

Writer says he's cynical

To the editor:

Making this as brief as possible, I am, no doubt in the minds statewide (nationally speaking), naturally expecting the same belief within *our* nation. I hereby express this optimism concerning the official report by the U.S. Department of Interior Via *Tundra Times* Volume XXV — Week of April 27, 1987, entitled: Open Coastal Plain — ANWR.

Naturally *concerned*, I totally disagree with Mr. Horn's statement: "that although development could lead to the displacement of *some* of the caribou herd, it is unlikely, though possible, that such a displacement would result in any appreciable decline in herd size." Therefore, Interior's report to the Congress should be considered hazardous, endangering the in-

habitants aboriginally and/or domestically.

You, the people, the *government*, cannot extend nor shorten the declivity simply by A-okaying this or that action mandated or not, without endangering the *livelihood*, the balance in Nature, so to speak, the caribou and the wildlife.

Has the Prudhoe Bay Oil reduced to such a low level in such a short time that the United States of America must go on depleting *OUR LAND, OUR "Coastal Plain,"* including also our subsidiaries and our corporations, which are doomed with time, say within 100 years from this day?

Regretfully cynical,
Peter K. Frankson
Point Hope

Many reasons for poverty

To the editor:

Welfare reform is long overdue in the United States. The Congress is at the present time working on this issue.

In the past few years, many Americans have joined the ranks of the poor, a result of recession, unemployment and budget cuts for social programs. Many households are headed by a woman, who is likely to be underpaid for the work she may be able to find.

Against this background, Congress focuses on how to get people off welfare and into the workforce.

While getting people back to work is important, the danger is that this issue blinds decisionmakers to the critical issues: poverty, the *many* different reasons people slip into poverty and remain there for generations; lack of jobs for people ready, willing, and able to work; support services that

enable single parents to take employment; training and educational opportunities, all affect the people who are on welfare.

I enclose a copy of a letter that was sent to each member of Alaska's delegation in the Congress. I hope you will be able to find space to publish it.

I am sure your newspaper has addressed many of these issues of poverty and of the welfare of Alaskans, as well as issues relative to our "welfare" system. There is food for thought here for all concerned citizens.

People used to think those on welfare were cheats or were "lazy." Now, many hard-working and well educated persons find themselves in this predicament.

Yours truly,
Constance F. Griffith
Ketchikan

Numbers of poor are increasing

Dear Rep. Young:

The numbers of poor people in the United States have increased dramatically in the past few years.

Recession, unemployment and

budget cuts in social programs have combined to force American families who have been self-supporting into the ranks of the impoverished. Nation-