

# Letters to the Tundra Times

## Orphan needs answers.....

November 12, 1980

Dear Editor:

I have heard that you help a lot of Natives with different problems, I sure hope that you can help me.

My name is Ralph Dulak, I was born in McGrath, Alaska, and I am an Athabascan Indian. I was orphaned at the age of 19 months, and raised up in Children's Homes in Palmer, Alaska. I lived in Alaska for 18 years, then like alot of young kids, I wanted to travel. Anyway so after a period of years I now live in Lousiville, Kentucky. I am 36 years old now and have a wife and 5 children. So now here is my problem, I was not aware of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act until only a few months ago. So I wrote the Bureau of Indian Affairs for more information on how I was supposed to go about receiving my share of the money. Well they wrote me back stating that I was way too late to even

apply because they had a deadline back in 1976, so I was out of luck. What I would like to know is how can they put a deadline on something that is owed to me? If they indeed had enough money back in 1976 that was supposed to been paid to me then, where now is my share? Where did my share go? How can they deny me something that is rightfully due me by my birth? If I sound bitter, it is because I am. Everyone is aware of how Indians are always getting the short end of the stick, but when your own people won't help you I think it is time to get mad. My family and I are wanting to move back to Alaska and live forever but we just don't have enough money to make the move. I was counting on this money as our way back home, but I guess that is impossible now. Please if you know of *any* way to fight this, please let me know. I was thinking of getting an attorney, but you know how expensive they are.

Also, there is one more problem, I only have one real brother, his name is Arvid Dulak. The last time I saw him was when he ran off to join the Navy in Anchorage. That was 21 years ago. I asked the Bureau

of Indian Affairs if they had an address on him and if they could possibly let me have it. They wrote me back of course saying that they were unable to give me his address because of their Privacy Act. It isn't like I was asking for a complete strangers address, just my brother who I have been trying to locate for 20 years. So if you can give me any help or advice on both or even one of my problems, I would be forever grateful. Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,  
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Letters to the Editor are welcome — you may send them to The Editor, Tundra Times, 639 "I" Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. We request that you keep letters at 250 words or less, out of consideration to other writers. The newspaper reserves the right to edit or omit letters for questions of libel or slander or other legal liability.