

# Letters to the Editor

## Priest Takes Issue with Emil Notti

Russian-Orthodox Mission  
McGrath, Alaska 99627  
February 7, 1970  
Tundra Times  
Box 1287  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Gentlemen:

I read with interest the text of Mr. Emil Notti's speech at Tacoma and the accompanying article headlined "General Agreement Among Native Leaders With Emil Notti." Whatever may be said for his general idea of a separate Indian Nation, the comparison with the State of Israel was the worst possible. Since I was for three years a resident of Jerusalem and am now a priest of what is called "The Native Church" here in Southwest Alaska, I am in a position to know.

Israel is a European state taken by force from the native people of Palestine. Just as the early American colonists fled from religious persecution to Indian lands which they often took by force, people from Germany, Poland, Rumania, and Russia who had been persecuted for their revenge on innocent Arabs. A small but powerful Jewish minority drove out the simple Arab farmers and shepherds who had been in possession of the land for at least 2,000 years. Even though the United Nations has called on Israel for justice at least nineteen times, the Arab people who were formerly the vast majority have never been paid anything for the homes, farms and businesses taken from them nor have they been allowed

to resettle. A million and a quarter Arabs are forced to live in refugee camps on 7½¢ per day.

The only way to apply the Israeli solution to Alaska would be to dispossess all the Eskimos on the Yukon and Kuskokwim on the ground that they have been here 2,000 years, and give the land to whatever Indians scientist say were here before that—Navajoes perhaps! I don't think this would be a good idea.

However, the very suggestion of an Indian nation opens this question: Is Mr. Notti and the AFN leadership trying to segregate the native people, or is he trying to integrate them into the American community? Let's get this quite clear. The Alaskan natives have a right to know exactly what Mr. Notti stands for and where he is leading them. I am sure that everyone would welcome a direct statement from Mr. Notti about this. Perhaps he has been misunderstood.

Sincerely yours,  
Elias J. Armistead, priest

## High Schooler Writes Miller

P.O. Box 23  
Nenana, Alaska 99760  
February 11, 1970  
Office of the Governor  
Pouch AB  
Juneau, Alaska

Governor Miller:

I am a freshman attending Nenana Public School.

I am writing about the raise in the Alaskan budget for 1970. I am glad that the state is going to build an eight-story building at the University of Alaska and doing some other things that does not help the people much.

I think this is stupid! You should use this money to create an industry or some economy base, which will give unemployed people jobs.

I know education is important but setting up jobs for the unemployed is not only important but urgent. It is very important to me because I live in a small town in which many men and woman are unemployed. I know most of the hardships these people have.

Alaska is now the richest state in the union and has the most poverty stricken people in the entire fifty states. The 900 million is our money, the people born and raised in the state. Not the transient workers brought up from Texas and California.

The employment situation is very bad. The unions won't let the Native Alaskans join until they get a job and the employees won't give them jobs unless they join a union. If a native person is lucky enough to acquire a good job he has to be better than his co-workers. On the North Slope, other than the 2.10 an hour jobs, the out of state workers bug him until he quits.

Clear missile detection base is a good example, the contract states 10 per cent local hire, but where did they hire locally out of, Seattle. The only jobs available to Alaskans is dishwashers, and janitors.

As number one priority must be jobs for the unemployed.

Education is a very important thing but where are the people going to get the money to send their kids to colleges?

The only bill I have heard about that will help the people to some degree is the one to give the old folks \$250 a month. Maybe they will help their struggling grandchildren to live a half way decent life.

Respectively,  
Edna Ketzler II

## Potter Material Plentiful In Alaska

763 La Para Avenue  
Palo Alto, California 94306  
January 28, 1970

Dear Sir:

This last summer I was in Alaska for a visit. As a potter I could not help but be impressed by the huge amounts of glacial clay, tundra and trees. It seemed to me that the clay might be used for pottery making, and the trees or tundra for fuel to fire the pottery. With this in mind I brought a small sample of clay back with me and was delighted to find it very usable, firing to a deep and very beautiful brown color.

As a potter I could also not help noticing the lack of active pottery making in Alaska. I believe that at this time there is a real demand for and appreciation of native American art. In our area the very finest art galleries carry the Eskimo stone carvings and prints. As you probably know the stone carving was a native art, but the print making was introduced in recent years to Cape Dorset, Canada. In addition, when in Alaska we were told to go to the Alaska State prison outside of Anchorage to obtain nice craft work. Knowledge of this work seems to be spread mainly by word of mouth, yet we found the prison could not keep up with the demand for this work. All of this suggests to me that there just might be a real future for native persons in Alaska in pottery making. The advantage of this sort of activity is that it can be done at the artists own pace and can be done in areas away from main towns.

The object of my writing this letter is this: You have contact with native Alaskans and I do not. Through you I can perhaps reach an individual, group or agency that would be interested in exploring the possibilities of pottery making. I would be willing to try to get technical information to any interested persons. I know a number of potters through my professional work and I am sure these potters in turn know other potters who be willing to supply information. I would be willing to act as a clearing house for information and could supply by mail such things as plans for wood or peat fired kilns, glaze formulas using natural materials, etc. I would do this because I really like pottery making and I feel that there are tremendous possibilities both for economic and personal satisfaction were potters to be developed in Alaska.

Sincerely,  
(Mrs.) Weston Anderson

## Poem— Children of Nunamiut

He came out of the wind  
to sit by our fire,  
this man of the land,  
Nunamiut.  
He had no pain;  
his words were sad.  
He had lost his children,  
taken by alien man,  
men from the sun,  
Tannik.  
With his back to the high sun  
he sits  
silent now.  
For thus they went,  
to the high sun.  
Following the sound of the juke  
box and new voices,  
Nunamiut's children are gone  
with Tannik.  
What is a man  
without children?  
He is Nunamiut,  
and he too will be gone.  
The land will be empty  
of man.  
Gone the laughter  
across the snow.  
Nevermore Nunamiut.  
Soon there will be  
only the wind to cry  
for the children  
who are gone.  
Listen, children, to the wind.  
It speaks your father's tongue,  
the voice you would not use.  
Remember your father  
was Nunamiut.  
Only he could live  
with the wind.  
Listen, Tannik, to the wind.  
What do you hear?  
What have you done?  
Forever across the frozen land  
the wind will cry  
for the children of Nunamiut  
who are gone.

—By TUKTU  
Ontario, Canada