

"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—

Thompson Biased Against Nonresident?

It is hard for us to imagine that Morris Thompson would be biased against nonresident Natives if he became Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Yet this question was raised at the confirmation hearing for Thompson by the members of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. We have no knowledge at the moment whether this was posed by the defeated element of the nonresident voters on the formation of the 13th Regional Corporation. We doubt that those nonresident Natives who voted to enroll in their home area corporations would pose such a question. If there was no representation from that faction at the committee hearing, perhaps there should be one to be heard.

During the painful process of the preparation of the vote for the 13th Region, we noted some tactics by some of the protagonists that smacked of too much emphasis on the glitter of money which worried us a great deal. It made us think that if that element had won, that some of the mass of the nonresident Natives might have been neglected or even forgotten. To us, the result of the vote shows that those who voted to enroll in their home area corporations had seen the handwriting on the wall and that there was no solid and concrete planning on the administration of the 13th Regional Corporation award money.

The result of the vote on the 13th region is a clear majority not to form it. The nonresidents in other states have now paved the way to be treated equally, along with their relatives and friends in Alaska, and they stand to benefit equally in the administration of the Alaska Native Fund. Their vote means that they can participate in the affairs of future Native Alaska. Their vote also means that they will retain and exercise their ties with their blood relatives back home as well as sharing the ownership of land, again with their relatives back home.

H. R.

The Old Eskimo

Lands End Village
State of Alaska
November 14, 1973

Dear Howard:

The other day Wally (ex-Vista friend) and I were discussing Section 7 (i) which reads:

"Seventy per centum of all revenues received by each regional corporation from the timber resources and subsurface estate patented to it pursuant to this Act shall be divided annually by the regional corporations organized pursuant to this section according to the number of Natives enrolled in each region pursuant to Section 5."

Wally was wondering if this section also involves the exploration part of obtaining the subsurface riches. He said that if a region spent two million dollars trying to extract their subsurface riches, how much of that will they be able to write

off on the 30% - 70% distribution? Should all the regions pay for their exploration work? I asked Wally what "subsurface" means, and he thought it was anything below the surface. Howard, do you know what subsurface means? Wally and I are a little confused right now. We were wondering if gravel was a subsurface particle or a surface particle.

As you probably know, a lot of money has been made from the sale of gravel. In fact all around our village there are good gravel pits. Will our village be able to claim gravel as surface estate, or will the regional corporation say that it is a subsurface particle?

As for this old man, I can see many problems that will arise from Section 7 (i). I only hope our people will solve these problems so that those who should benefit (village people) have the final voice.

Your Native friend,
Naugga Ciunerput

Letters from Here and There

Emily Asks Order for Books

Box 90826
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, Alaska
Oct. 29, 1973

To whom it may concern:

Dear relatives and friends, I decided to let you know that my book will be published in the future. I have to have a quota of 50 people who may wish to order one for themselves. I have now 32 orders and I need 18 more to balance the quota. Please let me know by mail if you would like a copy. It is called "The Lineage of Alluyaknak," oral history of Unalakleet and its people, the Unalik and Inupiaq Eskimos.

Thank you for your orders. My address is written on the top line, right.

When the shipment of books arrive, we will mail the copy to you but first send the payment. We will let you know as soon as possible about the price.

Sincerely yours,
Emily Ivanoff Brown

Subject Is Alcohol

P.O. Box 309
Juneau, Alaska 9980
Nov. 8, 1973

Dear Mr. Rock:

At this time I would like to share an opinion or an idea, the subject is "Alcohol." In Bethel the City Council voted the town of Bethel wouldn't be allowed alcohol in the city limits. I personally feel this is a great benefit to the community. I would like to see other City Councils that realize and recognize that alcohol is being abused, also take action.

You, the reader may ask how can I tell if there is a problem with alcohol. Here are some ways I have figured out since I have lived in a village at one time.

1. Take a look at your community, prior to the sale of alcohol have there been any changes?

2. Are you from an active community? Would you say your village is more or less involved in community activities since sales of alcohol has been permitted?

3. How many thousands of dollars does your community spend for alcohol beverages?

4. Has the crime rate been higher or lower since alcohol been permitted?

5. What is your meaning of an alcoholic?

6. Does your community try to solve unemployment, housing, education, community activities, family problems, and other problems you can think of?

7. Since the voting age was lowered to 18 would you say alcohol has been a bigger problem?

8. At the present moment could you vote no or yes in your community if the question was brought up that alcohol be outlawed?

These are just a few questions, but there are a lot more, but the thing I am trying to get across is that if alcohol is a problem, solve it. If my brother or sister had a problem I'd try to solve the problem, instead of seeing him get hurt, whatever I feel that people should look

into this, presently it's a problem, matter of fact here in Alaska we have the highest alcohol problem in the nation.

I am concerned and I hate to force this on you, but it's the truth and there is a problem so let's work on this problem, make your community aware of alcohol abuse, what it is and what it can do.

You, the reader may think I am a preacher, I am an Alaskan, 23 years old, and love the people, since I have found service to humanity is the best work of life, and people working together can solve big and small problems. Is alcohol a problem? Yes! Why? Look around you when you are on main street of your town or village. I have been down the road!

Thank you very much for reading this article. I hope it has benefit all.

Very truly yours,
Robert Chercasen

Seeking Jobs A Run-Around

Nov. 2, 1973

To Whom It May Concern:

From my encounters with the employees of the State of Alaska, one tends to get disillusioned very quickly. The courtesy shown to the individual is comparable to that of an Arab and Israeli confronting each other.

The Trilogy which I shall endeavor to characterize is the political, social, and economic structure. It seems all so unstable. Equilibrium and stabilization of the Trilogy is so disoriented and chaotic. An individual when he or she goes to a federal and state agency is subjected to the shuffle and run-around treatment. No wonder so many Alaskans are so healthy, they walk from one agency to another.

Is it any wonder that so many people are reluctant upon entering the premises of such an agency. Red tape and communication also seem to hinder legal action and correspondence.

From my own personal experience I have been given the run-around and the red tape treatment. To employees of the state and federal agencies I am just a number and a file put in a corner that's discarded.

So many Alaskan natives have been folded, bended, and mutilated, and then discarded.

Alaska's political structure is so unstable that the sinking of the Titanic was just a boat that sank in a bathtub.

Educationally speaking, the state sets up requirements, and the borough school district has the option and privilege of setting up their own rules, regulations and requirements. Upon my arrival in Alaska I would be introduced to the Trilogy (social, economic and political structure). It will take time before this state achieves a relatively balanced and stable form of government and state.

Once the natives of this state are done watching its political figures (locally and nationally) in action, we (the natives) can take over and mimic and imitate their actions. Any change would be an improvement. All the natives want is a chance to govern themselves politically, socially, and economically.

Thus future generations can become aware of their heritage and culture, and the American Indian as a whole can never be

come obsolete and extinct after so many years of genocide. Then the Alaskan Native, the aborigines, American Indian can never become a thing of the past.

The echoes of yesterday will now be the voice of today and the future. Little can be done to compensate for the lives lost before by people who felt they were fighting for a cause they felt right and justified.

The Indian as a whole, once unified can thereby restore their heritage and culture, but even in the past has his pride and courage been not destroyed. The past can never be erased from the pages of history. Today the Indian has realized that modernization and progress can destroy his simplified way of life.

Sincerely,
William R. Silas
108 5th Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Inmate Studies For Youth Work

Folsom State Prison
P.O. Box B40988
Represa, Ca. 95671

Dear Mr. Rock:

First, let me say that I am happy to read that you are now out of the hospital. I have prayed each night before I go to sleep and each morning when I awaken for your speedy recovery and for lasting good health.

I am a 35-year-old Kaverak Eskimo. During the time I have been here in Folsom I have achieved my high school diploma and am presently enrolled into college here. I will major in sociology and minor in psychology. I am gearing my education towards youth and young adult counselling. I am also enrolled in several advanced business courses, including business law in anticipation of the benefits I may receive from the ACT.

In addition to my college studies I am the chief law clerk and legal typist in the education complex here. I have over eight years of independent law study behind me. I picked up my first law book in 1966 when I was sent to death row, San Quentin. After appealing my case for over four years the California Supreme Court reversed, on a point of law, my death judgment and ordered a new trial. After a hung jury in the first of the retrials I made a motion for a life sentence. This was denied. Another jury was selected and before the trial got under way I renewed my motion and this time the judge granted it and dismissed the jury that was selected. I am presently and actively appealing the guilt phase of the trial held in 1965-1966.

In September 1972 I appeared before the paroling authorities and they denied further parole consideration until September 1975.

It is my opinion that the Tundra Times has done much in answering questions the Native People relating to points of the ACT. It has done this for me, and I shall miss receiving the paper when my subscription expires. (An attorney friend in San Francisco purchased the subscription for me as a Christmas gift. I have no funds for myself but the meager few dollars I make at my job here.)

I wish to congratulate you and your complete staff (this includes the ones out in the "Bush" country) for doing a very good job with the Tundra Times, and associated work with

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