

LETTERS FROM HERE AND THERE

Box 1125
Ketchikan

Editor Tundra Times
Sir:

Your article, "Gussuk Politicians in Bush on Way Out?" in Nov. 18 issue was somewhat erroneous as regards to this area. Veteran Native Rep. Frank Peratrovich (D-Klawock) and freshman Rep. Dick Whittaker (D-Ketchikan) defeated Carrol Fader, a Republican schoolteacher from Ketchikan and six term Republican Rep. William Boardman of Ketchikan, former House Speaker and Minority Leader.

The negative campaign against Rep. Peratrovich undoubtedly generated part of the landslide vote which returned him to office. Rep.-Elect Whittaker's amazing victory over Boardman, who had largely been regarded as "unbeatable," was partially a result of an adverse reaction to the anti-Peratrovich campaign but for the most part was the result of the candidate himself who, besides being active in the ANB and in the affairs of many of the villagers in Southeastern, had a refreshing approach to campaigning as compared to Boardman, involving new and non-political people in his campaign, generating a seemingly endless string of new and exciting ideas, etc.

I predict that not only will Ketchikan return our old friend Frank Peratrovich to the legislature as many times as he wishes but that Ketchikan, the legislature and the whole state has a lot more to hear from Dick Whittaker.

Sincerely,
Russel L. Brown

Dec. 2, 1970
Troy, Mt.

Dear Editor:

Perhaps you might like to know what a poor man from the Outside thinks. When I was 7 I heard a lecture by Stefansson and ever since wanted to go to the Arctic to live. I am 62 and have not made it yet. But, all my life I have studied to learn all I could to make a good living in that country.

I think the natives will get some kind of a settlement; there is a God in Heaven that looks after people in spite of poli-

ticians. I hope they can use the money to make themselves independent instead of it being spent for food and building material shipped from thousands of miles away and making business men rich.

I think it is too bad that people have to wander over the earth making a poor living fishing and hunting when they live in some of the best potential farm land on earth. I know what I am talking about. I was raised at Ashton, Idaho, 60 miles from West Yellowstone, the coldest spot in the main U.S. I have seen it snow every month of the year, one year it snowed so much on the 2nd of July that there was still enough left to make ice cream for the 4th. Yet, I have seen my father raise 400 sacks of potatoes to the acre without an ounce of commercial fertilizer. That is a lot of potatoes. And, at one time, people thought that country was as useless as the Arctic. The Mormons went there because they had to. They started a new kind of farming and now they are the richest people on earth.

In the Arctic there will have to be another new kind of farming. The soil is wet and there is lots of sunshine and it does not get too hot like it does here in the middle of the day. Because the soil has been cold so long it is low in plant food, but this can be added and by putting the manure and garbage back on the soil every year it can be kept rich without buying new fertilizer.

If the soil is so wet you can not get rid of the grass and weeds, you can kill them by weed killers like Paraquat before you plant.

If you can not get your grain dry in the fall you can harvest it wet and store it in a silo or even a hole in the ground. It will not spoil if you keep the air from it and the animals like it that way, just as well. By growing things that do well there like peas and timothy you can grow more on a acre than will grow by itself on a square mile.

Instead of buying plywood I think you ought lay up rock houses. The cement for mortar will not cost much and the house will be warmer.

Yours truly,
Paul White