

Stevens supports Watt

To The Editor:

I have been very concerned about the criticism that has been levied against the Secretary of Interior, James Watt. If there are voices of extremism in the country today, they are the extreme voices that are criticizing Secretary Watt before his policies have had a fair chance.

The policies he has promoted, in my opinion, will help restore the balance and reason to the programs administered by the Department of the Interior.

During the last few years, I have been intimately involved in the legislative battle over a very important issue to Alaska, which the Senate knows well from the long days that we spent on it last

year. I am referring to the legislative battle on the Alaska lands bill.

During that battle, the former Secretary of the Interior, Cecil Andrus, who I believe is a good man, held viewpoints that were definitely contrary to those that I hold.

We had many battles as we tried to convince federal officials of the needs of Alaska's Native communities, Alaska's hunters, Alaska's fishermen, miners, businessmen, hikers, and both the rural and urban dwellers of our State.

In the past, the Federal Government showed great antipathy toward Alaska and Alaskans. Now, that policy has changed.

It is my opinion that Secretary Watt has brought a fresh viewpoint to the Department of the Interior, and although we are certainly not winning all of the battles, today there is a great deal more understanding of the problems relating to Alaska and the West in the Department of the Interior.

Secretary Watt has surrounded himself with experts in land policy and management and he remains sensitive to concerns made known to the Department of the Interior by states and communities on controversial issues. I am pleased with his leadership at the Department.

U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens

The month at Point Hope

By MORRIS OVIOK

Village Coordinator, Point Hope

The month of May seemed like the shortest month ever when Point Hope whalers caught four whales in one day's activity.

The difference from the whale quota versus the Cultural Tradition meant that the June whaling Festival would once again bring all of us together.

The June 14 to 16 festival was the moment of thanksgiving, sharing and giving which enlightened the souls of the young and the old.

Point Hope's population grew as about 220 visitors arrived to participate in the festivities.

The City of Point Hope played an important role of greeter and welcome to visitors who had some munchies or a cup of coffee. The Airport Bus Service and other vehicles provided transportation from the airport.

After a cup of coffee, the visitors were recorded on the guest list. Folks came from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Nome, Barrow, Kotzebue, Kivalina, Wainwright, Point Lay, Kaktovik, Anaktuvuk Pass, Selawik, Willow, Noorvik,

Kiana, Kobuk, Naotak, Holy Cross, as well as Berkeley, Calif., and Mt. Clemens, Mich., and Mokokai, Hawaii.

The festival drew a large crowd while the captain and crew who caught the whales distributed the flippers to the crowd. It was the sharing, giving and receiving of the whale flippers, muktuk, and other foods which were delicacies and delicious that enlightened the cultural events. Many commented that if the whalers had taken more whales, the event would have been the happiest of our lives.

If that were possible, we would have been able to share of the subsistence whale meat throughout the year. Many Point Hope residents were already out of their shares because they gave what they had to the visitors or relatives.

Just prior to the Whaling Festival, the Helen Davis Memorial Basketball Tournament was held on July 12 and 13. Teams participating were from Barrow, Kotzebue, Point Hope and Noorvik. Barrow took first place, Kotzebue, second, Point

Hope third and Noorvik took fourth place.

On July 2, five boxes of Beluga muktuk weighing 50 to 70 pounds each were received from the village of Point Lay. Point Lay had contributed the muktuk for the July 4 festivities. The Point Hope City Council wasted no time to arrange equal distribution to each of the 50 household families.

The July 4 events were planned by community clubs who raised the money and contributed.

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tions from other clubs and local and city businesses.

Games included running, jumping, hopping, swinging, lifting, dancing, and singing and the gunny-sack races, three-legged races, baby-walker race, marble juggling, and Miss Harpoonerettes' competition.

The next day, 25 Point Hope residents went to the Northwest Native Trade Fair at Kotzebue.

The participants planned to enter the dance competition and other games.

Five scouts in Boy Scout Troop 96 left Point Hope for a week-long camping outing near Fairbanks during July 16 to 25.

The hunting of game and fish and camping takes a large part of the village people's summer and it will be a good long summer vacation for most of us until school starts and the first snowflakes appear.