

## letters

### Pribilof Native exploitation

Box 206  
Tok, Alaska

Dear Editor:

The exploitation of the Pribilof Natives is an appalling but not unique story in Alaskan History.

The routine is familiar.

No doubt many government employees who perpetuated the monstrous inequities retired with a good income and became "experts" on seals, natives and Alaska. And no doubt employees who complained were pushed out as troublemakers who didn't "understand."

These conditions existed for seventy-six years and the law suit took twenty-seven years which underlines the need of Alaska Natives for a strong, united and instantaneous advocacy program.

Advocacy is not for the chicken-hearted nor for the vacillating. It is not for a handful of people, either. While a few people have righted wrongs at great cost to themselves and they are among my most honored humans in history the time required is unacceptable.

The people who suffered most under the Pribilof system are dead. Their heirs (who certainly inherited the sad results of poverty and oppression) will get some compensation.

A.F.N. is right to suggest advocacy as a priority. Natives now have the clout if it can be used in their behalf.

"This is Alaska Natives knocking" will open doors, to the benefit of the village people, who are particularly lacking in expertise due to their remote locations.

"Labor knocking" opens doors for the working men and women. "Business knocking" opens doors for specific business inequities.

Do not be deterred by those who complain that Natives are getting some clout. People complain about labor too, and about business getting strong, and about everything.

Just the knowledge that Alaska Natives will be knocking will cause people to think twice before making decisions.

Yours truly,  
Mellie Terwilliger

### Make bilingual a busing issue

June 22, 1978

Dear Editor:

These days, to watch the corporation is to watch a fool with money. There is no unity among business leaders. Stockholders have seen no real return. The government sets up laws and makes wards of state. So the money is held in trust. Then the state has means of kidnapping, so your children can have a better way of life. Then when your children return to village life, "culture shock" takes place.

Not to be recognized by the faces of people you know is one of the hardships. Not to speak your language or really understand culture, heritage and tradition is the greatest loss. That's the price of living in the white culture. It is good to compromise to go down the middle of the road, to get the best of both worlds. But to be denied the rights set by the same ones who enforce the laws has got to be the final blow.

No longer will tradition carry on when it is whites that are the ones teaching. Go ahead. Make a bilingual a busing issue. Status quo and all that. The voices are

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weak, no longer carry the sounds. The old don't understand the young. The young can't speak their own language. These are bitter roots.

When we as Natives realize we have a free spirit and the path we walk can be hell or heaven, we must walk the path of principles. But if push comes to shove, I'm taking back everything I'm entitled to. So I will now say, a bullet is waiting. This Indian has found that the only way to stand your ground as if it's the last bloody acre.

William Silas

### Stickman doesn't like airlines

Fairbanks, Alaska  
June 27, 1978

Dear Editor:

I use to say how in de hell them Indians and Eskimos live in Fairbanks. You have to pay tax every time you eat, pay rent, etc. You live in the village, no tax & no rent. Now I can't stay away too long from here myself.

I haven't got too long to live the way I feel at times. I can't work hard any more. I use to travel with Wien, but since they started searching my bag, I quit. They call the cops on me at Anchorage & Fairbanks, because they search my bags. Then I started flying with Alaska Central Air to Galena, till I couldn't get on.

Then I started to fly with Galena Air Service. Last Thursday I was coming up again till they close Galena Air Service for Thursday. I had to wait 4 hours at Galena for Alaska Central to get another plane. The worst of it I had to see a doctor, and when I came here it was too late.

I like to know who is running the airlines. Everything is running against me. Even the election for board of directors for Doyon. Soon after the first count, 7 of them asked me for my votes, including to girls. Instead of giving the votes to me. What de hell they thought I ran for, it sure as hell not for them. I try to sell my votes or for a date. I was so mad I just left.

The reason I ran, they told me everybody was going to vote for me. I didn't even care to be on the board; there's no money in it.

Another reason I'm here, I cannot get commercial fishing license at Nulato. I fish there for a living 70 years, and I live there so I'm not going to fight with Fish & Game. Fish and Game came to Nulato for a meeting, and the Village Council started the meeting without me. I don't think one on the Village Council could talk for themselves.

They'll sit there smoke cigarettes and just listen to the Fish Laws. I told one of the Fish & Game I could take them laws they make, and use it for Toilet Paper. That's just what I told them. I told them from Juneau that they were stupid & crazy how they make them Laws for use. And also put one of the Fish Buyers at Galena on the Fish & Game Board.

Fred Stickman Sr

### Chevak sends RCA a bill

RCA Alascom  
Office of the President  
949 E. 36th Ave.,  
Anchorage, Ak. 99559

Dear Sir,

The village Council of Che-

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vak after many years of frustration and a total failure of RCA Alascom to respond to our chronic complaints about poor phone service, is submitting this bill to your Company. The bill, \$51.80 is the amount of funds we have invested to keep our building open where the telephone is housed. On Friday morning, June 16, a normal event has occurred. Over a period of hours, there was not one dial tone. The telephone must generate revenue to pay for our costs in keeping the building open. When there are no dial tones, it costs us a lot of money. We have told you about this situation frequently, and in letters to the Alaska Public Utilities Commission, but it appears that you are more relaxed with gouging rural Alaskans for phone services you do not deliver than in servicing your rural clients. The success of getting a dial tone, or having the luxury of making a completed phone call without static or being cut off must be RCA's directive now and in the future. Please pay this bill upon receipt.

Space Rental:	\$22.00
Oil	5.60
Electricity	4.80
Labor	19.40
	<hr/> \$51.80

Sincerely yours,  
Frank Chayalkin  
Administrator

cc: Tundra Times

### 'Only real Alaskan' on Committee

Editor,

I have just received a copy of the May 24, 1978 "Tundra Times." Sidney Huntington, the only rural and Native member of the Board of Game, has had his speech to the Senate committee handling the d-2 legislation lifted and reproduced by a coalition of urban sport hunting and fishing interests calling itself the "Real Alaska Coalition."

It is important to note immediately that Mr. Huntington is probably the only real Alaskan on that committee, if he is a member, and that he is a distinct minority not only on that committee, but among rural Alaskans in opposing Title 7 of Congress's "d-2" bill.

Mr. Huntington's comments about waste and opposition to local control in wildlife matters is, as he so often states in his speech, his own opinion. It is not supported by the 57 Native villages of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

Mr. Huntington must include both sides of the story if he is to speak as a rural Alaskan on the issue of local versus statewide management authority.

We sincerely hope that Mr. Huntington will reject publicly his association with this group who are definitely not the "real-Alaskans." As a member of the impartial Board of Game, and its only rural and Native member, it is not wise for Mr. Huntington to affiliate himself with this political position that is unacceptable to rural Alaskan villages.

In peace,  
Harold Sparck, director  
Nunam Kitlutsisti

Letters to the Editor are invited and should be addressed to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707. The Tundra Times reserves the right to edit letters which are excessively long, and to edit or omit letters which may be considered libelous.