

# ***Perdue Takes Issue with Story***

October 4, 1971

Dear Mr. Rock:

If you had told me you could try to make something out of someone, I may have spent the afternoon trying to convince you otherwise. However, after reading your front page article by Madelyn Shulman about Mr. Ketzler, I firmly believe that you honestly are trying. You gave Mr. Ketzler all the credit for organizing the Tanana Chiefs Conference. What about Richard Frank, Andrew Isaac, Alfred Starr and many others who are never mentioned. I helped write the Constitution and By-laws in 1961 which at the present time the leader can't seem to find. Those papers were written so that the people always controlled the organization and the President could only serve two consecutive years.

With the new Corporation papers the people have no voice. Mr. Ketzler President of the Tanana Chiefs and President of the board of directors and his attorney, Tanana Chiefs does not retain an attorney, have complete control and he can remain as President as long as he hand picks the executive committee of the Tanana Chiefs who spends and invests your money.

I am not interested in running for the paid position as President of the Tanana Chiefs. I understand that Mr. Ketzler, from informed sources, that he would do something if we paid him a salary. According to the records of the meeting the AAIA pays him \$200.00 per week, the Public Health \$153.35 per week and if we pay him \$8000.00 per year the grand total of \$26,374.20 per year. I checked the Native Center about his working hours they stated ten hours per week average. And so far he hasn't any to show his accomplishments.

You also gave him credit for work on the Native Land Claims bill. His attorney has done all the work also paid by American Association of Indian Affairs. The work that is being done is work of Mr. Don Wright and the credit should be directed to him. Maybe you would like to know how Mr. Ketzler represented us at the AFN convention last year. First day—showed up at 3 p.m. Second day—same thing. Third day—I don't remember seeing him.

I believe we need people with financial and business (successful) knowledge to hear our organization.

My record of accomplishments: Organized the Fairbanks Native Association co-organized AFN with late Nick Gray. Started the first foster home program in Alaska at my own time and expense. I worked hard on the Regional high school which will be started this spring. Worked on the Hospital in Fairbanks for the native people in the Interior. Served as President of the Tanana Chiefs for two years and vice president several years.

There are many other things I work on that very few people know about and I prefer it remained that way.

I hope your reporting will improve in the future as I don't care to be writing letters to protect the record.

Sincerely,  
Ralph W. Perdue