

"I may not agree with what you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it" -VOLTAIRE

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S 1987 BUDGET PROPOSAL WILL HURT ALASKA NATIVES AND ALASKA TOO

Alaska will probably have to take cuts in federal funding as other states will, but we should not have to take a larger share, and Alaska Natives should not be singled out for bigger reductions in program funding because of ANCSA.

The long shadow of Gramm-Rudman in Reagan's proposed budget is threatening to reduce federal funding for Alaska Natives to the tune of \$12.4 million, and the reasons are as follows:

...The largest reduction for \$12.4 million for financial support of programs in Alaska where several activities are being reduced or eliminated...Given the improvement in Native economic status due to ANCSA, the absence of land holdings that the U.S. has statutory responsibility to manage and the absence of any treaty rights to be protected, the Administration believes that Alaska Natives no longer require the level of financial support that the federal government provided in the past.

Telling the Reagan Administration that Alaskans are not rich when we distribute an annual Permanent Fund Dividend to every resident and that Alaska Natives are not independently wealthy because of ANCSA is a difficult argument to make.

We know what the present social and economic status is of Alaska Natives. We know what federal Indian law says. And we also know what ANCSA states. More importantly, we know there are people in Congress who will listen and work with us.

We need to present reasonable and convincing arguments to those who recognize what is just and right, no matter what the federal deficit is.

WE CAPITALIZE THE WORD NATIVE BECAUSE IT'S PROPER TO DO SO

We have been told that new editorial policies at the *Anchorage Times* and the *Juneau Empire* dictate lowercasing the word Native. The reason, we are again told, is to comply with the *Associated Press Stylebook* which states about the subject:

NATIONALITIES and RACES Capitalize the proper names of nationalities, peoples, races, tribes, etc: *Arabic, African, Afro-American, American, Caucasian, Cherokee, Chinese* (both singular and plural), *Eskimo* (plural *Eskimos*), *French Canadian, Gypsy* (*Gypsies*), *Japanese* (singular and plural), *Jew, Jewish, Latin, Negro* (*Negros*), *Nordic, Oriental, Sioux, Swede*, etc.

Lowercase *black* (noun or adjective), *white, red, mulatto*, etc. See **COLORED**.

See **RACE** for guidelines on when racial identification is pertinent in a story. Lowercase derogatory terms such as *honky* and *nigger*. Use them only in direct quotes when essential to the story.

The *Tundra Times* uses the *AP Stylebook* as a guide too, and we uppercase the word Native because we know Native is a proper noun referring to a specific 'people.' We also uppercase *Tanik, Naluaqimiu, Taaqsipak, Duksripak*, and *Gussak*. Capitalizing nouns, proper or common, which refer to races of people, we believe, is a matter of style and good manners so we will continue to do it regardless of how *AP* is interpreted.

We believe the *Anchorage Times* and the *Juneau Empire* should reconsider their new editorial policies in the interest of clarity in order to distinguish between Alaska Natives and native Alaskans.