

# Letters to the Editor

P. O. Box 58  
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752  
July 14, 1969

Dear Howard:

In the year 1949, for the first time in history of Alaska, native Alaskan Eskimos were represented by three duly elected representatives in the then Territory of Alaska Legislature. It is true that prior to this year Alaska natives were and had been represented by Indians of S. E. Alaska.

In contacting other legislators, and more so members of of Alaska Game Commission, now Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, bewildering comments such as, "We had never heard of Eskimo problems such as these before until you have come to our midst," were surprising statements. Had we not, as Eskimos, voted for our representative men on whom we believed would have done as they had promised to do for our welfare?

Now, after twenty years, Charles Edwardson comes out with the article (TUNDRA TIMES - July 3, 1969) that there is "a great lack of awareness among the general public of Alaska natives and their problems." For twenty years now since 1949 we have had continuous representatives in both Houses in the State of Alaska, and if Mr. Edwardson is right in his observation, we as Eskimos are still in a sorry plight. Now what are we to do?

"Lack of effectual communication" is still apparent to be in the fore, if our urgent problems are to be coped with not only from the efforts of those who are in sympathy with our bewilderment. TUNDRA TIMES is doing its untiring effort to speak for all of us natives in Alaska, but an occasional letter to our State Legislators and Congressional delegation might speed up the desired fulfillment to our cause.

We wonder if Charles Edwardson has not the right answer to this "lack of communication" through the FAN organization he so boldly has incepted.

Percy Ipalook, Sr.