



LETTERS

We need protection from U S

To the Editor:

In regard to Mr. Jacobs' article in the My Turn column published in the Nov. 25 issue of Tundra Times, I believe that he did not get his point across to the public. He wrote that the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act did not take away the aboriginal rights of the Natives, and I believe that this is not so. We all know that we have our subsistence way of living rights, but all residents of Alaska do too. We, as Natives have this Inherent Right, just as we all have the Inherent Right to live.

Why didn't Mr. Jacobs mention the Declaration of Settlement section of the ANCSA? Section 4, Paragraph (b) states: "All aboriginal titles, if any, and claims of aboriginal title in Alaska based on use and occupancy, including submerged lands underneath all water areas, both inland and offshore, and including aboriginal hunting or fishing rights that may exist, are hereby extinguished." In the section of the Act on Distribution of Lands there are no water rights

given to any Native Corporation except the water right of way lanes.

But, I agree with Jacobs when he said that the few Natives, mostly under the auspices of the Alaska Federation of Natives, who implemented the ANCSA were De Facto. De Facto in the implication of the Act would mean exercising power as if legally constituted to do so. But were the lobbyists that implemented the Act legally constituted to do so? I and many Natives that are now suffering from those sections of the Act, like the above say NO! Someone might ask, "How are they suffering?"

In the same issue of the Times, there is a letter from Ms. Jean Koutchak and Mr. Isaiah Towarak, two young people from Unalakleet, Alaska. They are concerned about the off-shore drilling that the oil companies are planning to do in the Norton Sound area, which they feel would endanger the Inupiat way of life. Do they know that when the ANCSA was made law that we Natives had our aboriginal

rights extinguished? Why do the two concerned Natives have to appeal to Walter Cronkite for help?

It's true that the subsistence way of living for the Inupiat peoples along the Norton Sound is being threatened, but at the present time we are being treated as second class citizens by the Department of Interior.

What is the Department of Interior doing? In the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Section 2, Paragraph (c) it states: "No provision of the Act shall replace or diminish any right, privilege or obligation, of Natives as citizens of the United States, or of Alaska, or relieve, replace or diminish any obligation of the United States or the State of Alaska to protect, and promote the rights or welfare of Natives, as citizens of the United States or of Alaska."

Now that we need the protection of the United States government, where is it?

Farrell Soxie
Eagle River

Slope oil run could help local people

The following letter was sent to Kent Grinage of the North Slope Borough.

Dear Mr. Grinage:

Like many communities in the North, Nuiqsut is enduring another cold winter season.

I was a tour guide at Prudhoe Bay for two summers, as well as in Barrow one tour season. The contrast from Arco's Main Base Camp, Sohio's BPOC and the village only 60 miles west is tremendous.

While working in Deadhorse one winter, I was fortunate to see movies at Arco, swim at the BPOC and have ample facilities

for showers and laundry needs.

Recently, I also saw the completed North Slope Borough Camp in Deadhorse which is something we may all be proud of.

I heat my Nuiqsut home, I carry the five gallon jug to the road, the Kuukpiik truck fills it up with diesel. NSB supplies me the five gallons of water which I use for dishes, laundry, and personal care . . . all in a tin bowl.

Being the city clerk is quite an experience, though being the daughter of a Bush pilot who now flies jets for Wien, I was familiar somewhat of Bush

life. However, the cost of fuel has gone up, the home is always cold without proper window insulation, floor insulation, I have empathy for larger families in Nuiqsut who need more fuel, more water for dishes, laundry and more food than I do.

The flare systems at Prudhoe are quite elaborate, when Arco or Sohio are burning excess natural gas to prevent too much pressure of the volatile liquid, I ask with vapor from my breath . . . why couldn't they build flow lines to Nuiqsut and Kaktovik and

(Continued on Page Three)

Oil letter

(Continued from Page Two)

Anaktuvik who desperately need the fuel for heating? Not only would they alleviate natural gas pressure, they would also assist our rural communities with the problem of high energy needs and costs.

As Barrow is now supplied with natural gas, how would Nuiqsut be able to tap possib-

ly our own natural gas supply? Also please send information on the energy conservation plans.

Thank you for your time. I am going to retreat to the sleeping bag before I slow the blood circulation down too much.

Barbara A. Kimberlin
Nuiqsut, Ak.