

# Letters to the Editor

Tyrsova 731  
Nove Mesto na Morave  
Czechoslovakia

Dear Sirs,

Let me introduce myself. I am 26 years old and employed as an electrician.

I collect the photos, folklore souvenirs and informative material of Alaska.

I should be very glad if you could help find me friends in your country. I should want to be in correspondence with them and exchange photos, souvenirs, etc.

Thank you very much,  
Yours sincerely  
F. Janeba

ALASKA—our great land  
April, 1970

Dear Editor:

Enclosed you will find a copy of resolution No. 112 from the Legislature. Also, a contradictory report taken from the widely read Reader's Digest, in reference to the best selling and exciting book, "Our Brother's Keepers."

First of all, let me say, I agree the BIA is to be commended for the WONDERFUL job they are doing. But—for who? Themselves, (non-Natives) of course.

Incidentally, doesn't the Legislature have anything more significant to spend their time on other than wasting their time lying to us and trying to convince us BIA is really doing a great job taking care of us and educating us?

Let me tell you something, "WE AIN'T THAT STUPID!" They claim to be educating us for the past,—over one-hundred years.

Then—

Why—Are key positions in BIA offices, schools, etc. not filled by Natives?

Answer:

You failed to teach us what you claim to have.

or You are discriminating against us.

You—yourself, keep telling us, "You are not qualified" (you are telling on yourself)

Why—Are there very few Natives entering college?

—Are there so many Native student "drop-out"?

—Are BIA High School graduates not employed or furthering their education?

OBVIOUSLY—they did not earn their high school diploma.

Recommendation—

STOP sending "rejects" to teach our Native children. Your people don't want them—WE DON'T EITHER!

Respectfully,  
Indian

Not so stupid, and—as a BIA product—Not too smart INDIAN

P.S. You are also to be commended for giving yourselves "fast" promotions, the more stupid you are—the longer your title gets...

McGrath, Alaska  
10 April 1970

Gentlemen:

I have just returned from spending three weeks visiting Russian Orthodox villages on the Kuskokwim, and this is my first chance to write to you about the letter of Father Michael Irvin. I should thank Fr. Irvin for making clear that I have nothing to do with the present administration in Sitka.

The reasons why neither I, nor the late Fr. Gerasim Schmaltz of Spruce Island, can recognize the present administration is that it is illegal according to both

church and civil law. I enclose several documents. I hope that you will study them and make known the contents to your readers. The decision of the federal courts that the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia alone has legal title to Russian Orthodox property has never been contested, since it was handed down in Los Angeles.

The "Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church" (usually called the "American Metropolia") broke away from the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia and declared itself independent. Even since Fr. Irvin's letter his church has reached an agreement with the Communist-controlled Soviet Church and for mutual recognition has changed its name to "the Orthodox Church of America." By this it gives up all claim to being part of the Russian Orthodox Church.

This leaves me as the only priest presently in Alaska who has any legal right to be called "Russian Orthodox." The nearest Russian Orthodox bishop is our Bishop Nectary of Seattle.

All these illegal actions have been taken without either the knowledge or the consent of the Russian Orthodox people of Alaska, although the facts are well known in the lower states, and have been mentioned recently in Time and Newsweek. It is the belief of the bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia that the people of Alaska wish to remain Russian Orthodox, and have no desire to break the laws of the Church, or form part of this independent American Orthodox Church. At least they should be consulted and given a choice.

During the last three years the education of the Russian

(Continued on page 7)

# ***Letters to Editor***

(Continued from page 2)

Orthodox people of Alaska has been the most important thing in my life. Everyone on the Kuskokwim River knows how I have been slandered by the present Sitka regime. The Tundra Times could render no greater service to the Orthodox people of Alaska than a complete expose of this situation. They have certainly been kept in the dark in the past.

Sincerely yours,  
Elias J. Armistead, priest  
of the Russian Orthodox  
Church Outside Russia