

No Time to Observe Whaling-

Duties Prevent Sen. Buckley to Witness Pt. Hope Whaling

Friendship with a young Eskimo newspaperman in Washington, D.C. fostered a hope on the part of United States Senator James Buckley of New York that he would one day watch Eskimo whalers land a big one.

Tom Richards, Jr., Washington correspondent for the Tundra Times, contacted Editor Howard Rock, who grew up in the ancient Eskimo whaling community of Point Hope.

Could Rock arrange for Senator Buckley to go out with a whaling crew?

By virtue of Congressional legislation, Buckley could not be

allowed to actually take part in the hunt. Under the sea Mammal Act of 1972, the right is restricted to Eskimos who depend on the giant whales for a major part of their subsistence. Buckley could, however, observe the activities.

Seymour Tuzroyluke, a nephew of Howard Rock, offered to take the Senator out with his crew.

The Senator would go out in a 24 foot skin boat with a crew of six or seven Eskimo hunters. After waiting long hours, they would follow a lead in the ice, watching for signs of a bowhead

whale.

But dreams are not always realized, and senators are busy people. Regretfully, the Senator would have to decline this year's invitation.

"I have tried, and tried, and tried to see how I could carve out the time to take advantage of your invitation to join in the whale hunt," Buckley wrote Editor Rock.

"The way this year has developed, it simply is not possible for me to do so. . . . I simply cannot find the five or six days in which I can plan to be away.

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Senator James Buckley

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"I do hope that you will be kind enough to invite me again next year as I can think of no experience I would rather have than to witness Eskimos engaged in their traditional hunting activities."

Buckley thanked all those who had worked to make the trip possible — his friend, Tom Richards, Jr.; Rock himself; and the Eskimo whaling captain he has yet to meet, Seymour Tuzroyluke of Point Hope.