

*"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire*

# Tundra Times



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## The Alaska Natives And the North Star III

Wainwright Co-operative Association  
Wainwright, Alaska  
January 10, 1972

Dear Mr. Rock:

This is to register our unanimous protest against the discontinuation of the services of the North Star proposed by certain private carriers, Federal agencies and politicians. We feel that the wide spectrum of benefits available to us through the services of the North Star could not be duplicated by any other means, certainly not by the Cool Barge or Mona Lisa operations.

We urgently request that you do what you can through your office to guarantee maintenance of the many vital functions performed by the North Star on its annual voyage to our village.

Sincerely yours,  
Felton Segevan  
Pres. of Wainwright Co-op Ass'n  
Board of Directors

George Agnasagga  
Mayor of City Council

Shaktoolik, Alaska  
January 7, 1972

To whom concerned:

Gentlemen:

We the native people of Shaktoolik served by the BIA ship the North Star III all heard that there is a possibility of losing its services in the future. The North Star III have always done its job year after year without any complaints from anyone. We strongly protest for even a possible change over for any other carrier. No other carrier can take its place.

Sincerely yours,  
Oscar Takak  
IRA Council President  
Shaktoolik, Alaska 99771

Elim, Alaska 99739  
January 9, 1972

Senator Ted Stevens  
United States Senator  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

There has been talk of taking the North Star out of Commis-

sion and replacing it with some other means of Hauling Freight, like "Cool Barge", for the remote villages affiliated with ANICA.

We in the villages feel that there is no better service than the North Star is giving the villages at the present and for many years to come. Therefore we feel that the North Star should be retained as the Freighter for our villages.

We ask you therefore to fight for us to retain the North Star as our freighter.

With sincere confidence in your support, I remain

Respectfully yours,  
Wilfred C. Murray, Sr.  
Secretary, IRA Council  
Elim, Alaska 99739

Gambell, Alaska  
January 7, 1972

Mr. Morris Thompson  
Area Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
P.O. Box 3-8000  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Thompson:

In our recent meeting of the IRA councils, I was asked to write letters concerning the removal of the BIA ship, The North Star III, as a yearly freighter to north western Alaska and to the other ports she had served before. It is our concern that if the vessel North Star be removed from serving the villages, as well as the remote areas she has served before, it will hurt the people who have lived to see North Star bringing in supplies every year. Not only the people in villages will be hurt, but as well, the cooperative stores of ANICA will be hurt as will it's people.

So therefore, we the IRA Councils of Gambell, Alaska strongly support the resolutions made by the Board of Directors of ANICA.

We need your help and support, on this matter, as you know very well, how North Star has served Alaskan villages.

We, the IRA councils in our recent meeting, have voted AGAINST the removal of North Star III, and want The North Star to remain as our freighter for villages she has served for fifty years.

We hope that this letter will be of some help to the Board of Directors and the ANICA staff

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## Letters from Here and There

Box 385  
Barrow, Alaska 99723  
January 7, 1972

Howard Rock, Editor  
Tundra Times  
Box 1287  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Howard:

I believe the time has come for each and every Alaskan to thank and compliment you in your untiring efforts in the settlement of the Native land claims, and all those who untiringly worked in each village and Washington, D.C., toward the settlement. I give them my compliments and appreciation.

As you well know, I am not a publicity seeker in what I do. I would appreciate from your paper the following comments which I will be making coming to you from the silent majority of the Native people of the State of Alaska. First of all would be in the area of education. I believe very firmly that social promotion which has been a practice for so long has got to come to a halt. You can see that it creates nothing but lazy people, as they grow up, and eventually takes their individualism away. They end up being wards of the State and Federal government, no matter how healthy their body may be or how young they may be.

This is one instance I would not like to see when these 12 regional corporations are formed in Alaska. Let us, as Native Alaskans, look at each individual who will represent us in the regional corporation. Do not look at the individual because we are used to voting for him. Let us ask of each person whether he will represent us fairly, honestly, and with integrity in the regional corporation, because, my friend, they will be dealing with big money, more than you and I have seen put together.

You and your paper are the biggest assets we have to have a strong and honest regional corporation. Through education alone can we thrive. A grant of money to each individual will be a failure. Creation of employment would be the answer. It is true that we need better housing for our people. Let us build for those that need them. But make the payments more flexible than they are today. Let us not build them totally free because, in the past, the BIA and other agencies have tried that and failed. A total giveaway is not the answer.

It is probably true that some individuals will become successful while others will fail. If you ask me what the answer would be, it would be to turn all educational systems into one. The Constitution of the State of Alaska requires this. Until we do so, our children will never be ready for college. With social promotion in the teaching curriculum, standards are lower, and our children will only continue to drop out of school and college.

Again, thank you for your honest efforts and those of your paper.

Sincerely,  
John Nusunginya, Sr.

Kwigillingok, Alaska 99622  
January 6, 1972

Governor W. A. Egan;  
Capital of Alaska  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Governor Egan:

Ever since I read what was on that land claim bill that became a law. There is one thing that is been bothering me that I don't like, and I don't intend to follow it even if it is a law.

What I don't like is the one that states that there will be no provision for subsistence rights outside of 40 million acres. Because it takes much land to hunt and we don't fish in one place in river. And there is seal hunting for us coast people, and for people in interior they will need much land since what we all hunt for are not located in the villages and around the villages.

So we the people of the villages don't depend on our pay checks, we have to hunt and fish to eat. And eating few meals of white people's food don't make us white people, we are Eskimos and Indians and Aleuts so we depend on hunting and fishing to eat.

It is true that there are some of us that depend on their pay checks to eat. But they don't care for not having hunting rights outside of the 40 million acres.

Which will not be very much when divided to the villages.

And I can tell you that this is going to increase arresting of the people who hunt and fish outside of their townships. And once again as I told you earlier I don't intend to follow that law if I and my family are hungry for the food we eat all our lives.

The reason I am writing you is to tell you and let you know that I was born and raised up here in Alaska. And my ancestors are buried up here in Alaska. So there is no way of anybody to limit me in getting what I have to have in order to eat.

All the other things that are listed on the bill don't bother me. But I don't like to be limited in going to places where I have to hunt and fish, so I will broke the law when I am hungry and go any place to get what I want.

And I hope you as Governor of Alaska will be willing to help us on this, so we will be able to hunt and fish when ever we can.

I am sure that I am not the only one in Alaska who does not like that part of the law.

Sincerely yours,  
David O. David

cc: Tundra Times.

Musk Ox Project  
University of Alaska  
College  
Alaska 99701.

Mr. Howard Rock,  
Tundra Times  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Mr. Rock:

May I take advantage of your columns to thank Mr. Gary Briggs of Anchorage for his recent letter about the domesticated musk ox and the associated qiviut textile industry?

Mr. Briggs referred to the recent statements in the Anchorage Daily Times attributed to Mr. Nathan Toots of Mekoryuk that the Musk Ox Producers' Co-operative was failing in its

job of promoting the qiviut textile industry in Mekoryuk. Nothing could be further from the truth, and I do not know what the sources of Mr. Toots' information were.

Personnel from the Musk Ox Project have held training classes in techniques of producing qiviut textiles in Mekoryuk on two separate occasions: at the end of 1968, and in mid-1970. At the present time Mekoryuk is the leading village in Alaska in terms of qiviut textiles, and the ladies of Mekoryuk have rightly earned a high reputation for the excellence of their knitting, which has featured in exhibitions as far away as Texas. Looking at our records for 1971, I see that over 750 qiviut garments were produced in Mekoryuk in 1971, and that income to the village from the qiviut industry significantly exceeded \$10,000 for that year, a major achievement for an industry which began only two years ago and which is growing rapidly.

As Mr. Briggs mentioned, we feel that 1972 is an appropriate year for the Musk Ox Project and Co-operative to take their next step to establish a herd of domesticated musk oxen in one of the coastal villages. Unfortunately, however, Mekoryuk is not a suitable place for such a farm. The reason for this is simply the presence of wild musk oxen on the island. For obvious reasons it would be impossible to let domesticated musk oxen range freely over the island. Even if a fenced farm were built the presence of domesticated females in heat would attract wild bulls, who might even demolish the fences in their eagerness, and who would at the least make a considerable nuisance of themselves.

It was for this reason that the very first textile training classes were held in Mekoryuk. We were indebted to the people of Nunivak Island because the original musk oxen for the domestication experiment came from their island. Because of the overwhelming difficulties of placing a herd of domesticated musk oxen near Mekoryuk, we decided to begin the textile industry there, so that the people of Nunivak Island could participate in the important economic benefits to be derived from the domesticated musk ox.

The Musk Ox Producers' Co-operative still hopes to establish its first farm in 1972. Many villages have already been visited, but no final decision has been made. If there are any villages which would like to be considered as locations for this farm, we should be delighted if they would contact us through the University of Alaska.

Once again, my thanks to Mr. Briggs for his interest and enthusiasm, and also to you, Mr. Rock, for the considerable support given to our work over the past years by the Tundra Times.

Yours sincerely,  
Paul F. Wilkinson

## Hooper Bay Babies

Mrs. Mary Ann Nukusuk of Hooper Bay, Alaska reports that two new babies were born at her village in the month of January. They are as follows:

A baby girl, Evelyn Inez Joe, was born to her proud parents Mr. and Mrs. Paul Joe.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nukusuk became the proud parents of a baby girl, Inez Teresa Nukusuk.

Evelyn was born on January 5 and Inez was born on January 4.