

Letters to the Editor

Editor, Tundra Times

A week or so ago the Tundra Times printed the first part of Mike Gravel's book on the villages, but this week I did not see the second part. Will it be continued next week?

I met Mr. Gravel here in Anchorage for the first time this year, although he was in Shishmaref, my home town, a few years ago during his campaign. Unfortunately I have not been back there for quite a while, but I read the Tundra Times which is very informative.

I have been concerned about progress in the villages like all my people, and I think it is a good sign that Mike Gravel and others care enough to write about the problems and how to solve them. This is going to help.

I will be returning to Shishmaref for the first time in many years and I know that things can get better there, and it is up to our people and no one else to make life better in the villages. That is why it is encouraging to see candidates like Mike Gravel write about the villages and show their concern like everyone else.

Yours truly,
Eleanor Eningowuk
Secretary
Young Democrats
of Alaska

P. O. Box 801
Nome, Alaska 99762
July 29, 1968

Dear Mr. Rock:

Let me commend the Tundra Times for its recent serialization of Mike Gravel's essay "Alaska's Native Poor."

Largely because of the publicity and coverage of village problems in the Tundra Times, this essay was to be expected. Certainly if the Times had not exposed the problems of the villages, statewide candidates like Mike Gravel and others would not have taken an interest in the public problem, simply because it would have remained unknown and unnoticed.

I think Gravel should be complimented on taking a strong stand for improving the condition of the Native people and the situations in the villages. But I also think the Tundra Times should be given its share of credit in having the courage to tell this story over the last few years. My compliments and best wishes.

Sincerely,
Stan Harhut, Chairman
Northwestern
Democratic District

July 25, 1968

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have noticed recently that Mike Gravel has been receiving considerable publicity through alleged interviews re various subjects. These subjects and his remarks have a tendency to secure the support of our native citizens of Alaska.

It appears that Mr. Gravel is attempting to ingratiate himself into the good graces of our native peoples in an effort to deprecate the many accomplishments of Senator Gruening during his tenure of office as a U. S. Senator for the benefit of the native population.

In 1965 there was an effort by a Mr. Pomeroy to extend the boundaries of the Kenai Borough to take in the Tyonek Indian Reservation located on the upper Cook Inlet. Frank Peratrovich, Rader and myself took on the burden of getting a bill through the Legislature to prevent the Reservation being taken into the Borough.

Gravel opposed the bill violently and at a committee meeting spoke hotly against the same. He alluded to the Tyonek natives as "just another bunch of savages."

We feel that his attitude would be the same today toward the native people. His various interviews, advertisements and speech clearly indicate that they are intended as vote getters. It is hoped that the voter will not be misled by such items.

You have one firm friend in the political rail and that is our very able Senator Gruening.

Sincerely yours,
Warren A. Taylor
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