

# Letters from Here and There

## **Stickman Sold Fish Since 11 Years Old**

July 22, 1974

Mr. Howard Rock,  
Tundra Times Editor:

In 1917 Sept. I left Nulato with my sister and Emily Esmaikka for Holy Cross Mission Boarding School, but I lasted only seven months.

My Dad went down with dog team in April 1918 to bring us back.

When we got back 1918, Mr. Charles "Charlie" Steinhäuser bought the N.C. Co. out, while I was away. That summer he ask me what I was doing at the Fish Camp. I said, "Hang up fish. Put up racks to hang fish. Haul fish from the fish wheel in front of the house."

He ask me to cut fish and dry fish and smoke it, so he'll buy it, and I can make candy and Coke money. That was when I started to smoke fish for sale at 11 years old.

For 56 years I have been selling fish. I like to know where this commercial license is coming from and who make the law.

When God made the world, he didn't tell us to buy commercial license to fish. He made the fish. That's money coming up the river, that's underwater. The money comes up underwater for us to sell it for money to eat. No dam license. What's a commercial license?

The Fish and Wildlife is trying to make this crazy laws for us Indians. Same way at Bristol Bay. I was there working for three years working and watch the fishing. The Fish and Wildlife tell the fishermen when and how to fish and they think they can control the fish by putting up fish laws.

But some day when the wind start blowing. People can't catch too many fish. And the fish go by, that they don't see.

And I fished in the Yukon and it's worse. When the wind is blowing and raining and all the driftwood blocked the fish-wheels to fish nets, thousands and thousands fish go by that the Fish and Wildlife don't see or know about.

It just goes to show you, how much fish come by old house this year. And I didn't fish this year, and you could see how many fish I let go by, that the Game wardens don't know about. They tried that with beaver, moose, marten, years ago, but no matter how many they kill, more and more was migrating from different places.

White man got no use to make laws for us. They make laws for gambling, drinking and what not. We do it anyway. Everyone broke the law at one time or another, even me.

We have no license to gamble, and no license to drink either. So you might as well forget the commercial fishing license, and a red can on the end of the fish nets.

They make laws for nothing. They don't enforce it. They can't stay up night and day to guard the fish.

Fred Stickman, Sr.

July 19, 1974

The Hon. Don Young  
U.S. House of Representatives  
601 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Don:

I'm sure you would agree with me that the voting public is better served if the candidates are frequently presented to the public side-by-side in neutral situations where the public can do a little first-hand comparative shopping. In this way slick advertising "packaging" is stripped

aside and the candidates seen as the men they are.

Public debate has been the classic format for this purpose, the Lincoln-Douglas debates the classic situation. In a more modern media context, the Nixon-Kennedy debates might be a model. You may recall those debates as the occasion when Mr. Nixon said Harry Truman was unfit to be President because he used the term "s.o.b." in describing a critic of his daughter's singing.

In any case I believe a series of public debates in our race for

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## **Challenges Young, Hensley To Debate**

513 W. Seventh Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
277-6579/277-6570

# Letters

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Congress would be much in the public interest and invite you to contact me for purposes of working out a schedule and format. I can adjust my travel schedule to suit your convenience.

I assume we will all be in Palmer for the State Fair, so that would certainly be one good place. An Anchorage or Fairbanks TV studio would certainly be another location, since a televised debate would be shown widely.

If you are concerned that a standard debate format would be to your disadvantage, perhaps a press panel could be arranged to ask questions on a rotation basis. I'm sure the Press Club, League of Women Voters or other groups would be willing to sponsor such an affair.

Since all the voters can vote for any of us under Alaska's open primary law, it certainly serves the public interest to arrange for such a proceeding now, before Aug. 27.

I await your answers with interest.

Sincerely,

John Havelöck

cc: State Senator Willie Hensley