

LETTERS to EDITOR

Nikolai, Alaska

Dear Mr. Rock:

The people of Nikolai read very interesting things in your newspaper. Some things make us ask questions maybe you can answer since we do not know who to ask about this.

In the January 12 paper there was news that the BIA and Public Health Service is to provide villages radio contact 24 hours a day to take care of health problems and emergencies.

Nikolai would like to have a radio with this service. Who can we ask for this?

We hear many villages who have daily radio schedules with the hospitals but we have no medical schedule here. We are supposed to be in the Anchorage district but Anchorage does not have a radio schedule for medical cases.

So we have never had radio contact with a hospital as most villages have. We are too far away to hear Bethel hospital. We can hear Tanana but we are not on their schedule because we are not in Tanana hospital district. The plane schedules are not practical for getting people to Tanana, but it would sure be helpful to us if we could talk to a doctor during sickness or emergencies.

Our medical aide does a good job. We try to get advice from the public health nurse in McGrath but many times there is no one in McGrath listening to the radio. Sometimes the nurse is visiting a village or on vacation even if we can get McGrath. There are many times it would be helpful if we could talk directly to a hospital. Sometime even somebody's life might be saved if we had some kind of medical contact.

We would sure like to apply for one of these new radios with 24 hour contact for medical problems so if you could print our letter, Mr. Rock, or see that it gets to the right place, we would appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Bobby Esai, Sr.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Rock:

Please print this letter in the Tundra Times.

The letter published in the Tundra Times Feb. 23, 1968, by correspondent, name withheld, and Barry Jackson, I don't agree with Mr. Correspondent or Barry Jackson. They imply that the Native is not carrying his full load or share of government.

A few years back, we may not have carried our full load. But you can bet we do today. I say that the Natives of the Interior Alaska carry more than their share of the burden of government. No Federal or State money comes to the

Interior to help pay the cost of public utilities in the outlying villages—90 PER CENT HARD WORKING, TOP PAYING VOTERS.

In fact, we in the Interior can't get FHA financing to build or buy our homes.

As for the Natives not developing the land and not spending the money wisely, that remains to be seen. The Natives have come a long ways in the last few years. You see and hear proof of this every day.

I am a Native and manage my business successfully since I started it in 1961. And I know a lot of Natives who are doing the same.

Now Mr. Correspondent, I

want you to tell me who the bigger Indian is. When the federal government built our schools and hospitals our white brothers were employed. More than \$25 million is appropriated annually for the BIA. I would be almost on the mark by saying that 95 per cent of this money goes directly to the white man.

Seeing as how much money goes to the white man, by the Native being what he is, I would say—lick the hand that is feeding. Don't bite the hand.

Sincerely,
Claude Demientieff
Galena, Alaska