

Complaining about fund is wrong

To the Editor:

I'm a shareholder in Chugach Natives Inc. and hail from the village of Port Graham, in the Lower Cook Inlet.

In regard to the Permanent Fund Dividends I do not understand why people are causing so many arguments. I mean why all the complaining? And a lot of this seems to be coming from "City Folk" who have a comfortable income and can therefore kick back and complain about the help we receive from the state government.

I am positive that no complaints were aired from any of Alaska's Native community. We are hard living and grateful people and I don't feel it's right for the papers in Alaska to publish sob stories for high income people who tell of how they sent their checks back or complain that it's wrong and not beneficial for the people.

It's the same fat backs from the city who complained about subsistence laws in Alaska and created an illusion of racial discrimination.

During this time no paper published facts about some high income people wanting to go to a river and fish with a pole and yet complained about Alaskan Natives fishing subsistence in order to survive.

I mean, how do you go out and sport fish on a forty-foot fishing boat which takes a crew of three people to pull the seine back in the boat?

As I said before, I am in

total support of the permanent fund. And as long as I live I will always be impressed to Mr. Jay Hammond's loyalty and dedication as a governor for the State of Alaska and its people. His concern and love for all Alaskans is tremendous.

In spite of this some of the people seem to want to overlook the fact that this money could have been kept in the state government and spent by politicians for business trips to the Bahamas, Las Vegas or it could have been used to build an extra city hall in Anchorage or a bridge to Government Hill, but what about the people in the Kuskokwim villages, in Tyonek or for that matter in Port Graham?

I think it's about time the people learn to grow up a little, to complain just for the sake of creating or portraying social myths of inequality are some of the things we do not need in Alaska. I know some families, whites as well as Natives, who were reached in a time of need by the permanent fund. It is very sad indeed for a lot of us to see people complaining about this program.

It was with good intentions that our Chief of State, Jay Hammond and his staff made this decision to give the peoples' money to them. To those who like to complain, air your complaints personally to the government or to the courts. It's doubtful if anyone else wants to read about or share

your miseries. If you're not happy with the functions of our government in Alaska, go back to where you came from and leave the people up there in peace. If you want to send your permanent fund checks back, do so, but do not seek public attention in what you personally may feel is a heroic deed, as you are not refusing money for the sake of the people, it's just a few bucks of hotel or gas money to be used on a trip to some exotic vacation spot.

And for President Standifer of Tyonek I am in total agreement with your comments and no doubt many people appreciate the stand you have made with your letter.

It is true that Mr. Hammond is no longer our governor, however his deeds, his fairness and compassion for people will be long remembered as it is with some of our leaders who walk in his shoes. Let us remember what his intentions were with this permanent fund program, and let us not forget Mr. Hammond, the one person out of thousands who had guts enough to fight for the position of governor just so that some of his dreams for the State of Alaska and its people could be fulfilled. And before we complain about our rights let us remember the rights of others as well.

Sincerely,

Paul Kuasinkoff
Leavenworth, Ks.