

# Letter to Editor

Law Offices of  
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Anchorage, Alaska 99501

June 10, 1965

Mr. Howard Rock, Editor  
Tundra Times  
Box 1287  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Mr. Rock

I read your editorial entitled "Political Power Potential" in the issue of June 7 with great interest. The editorial is accurate and states the question very clearly: Will the native people of Alaska exercise the political power which they have?

I hope that your editorial will encourage the leaders of the native people of Alaska to answer this question in the affirmative. The political right to vote is meaningless unless it is exercised. However, when the right to vote is exercised, exercised intelligently, and exercised with some united purpose, it can become very important indeed.

The native people of Alaska need a program. That program should include a great expansion in educational opportunities, increased vocational training, increased development of local resources, the development of decent physical facilities such as uncontaminated water, sewage disposal, electric power, and basic housing. If all the native people of Alaska would unit behind such a program, and then push it vigorously, I think you would really begin to see results.

Such a program would not be entirely selfish. The economic poverty and depressed living conditions of the native people of Alaska drag down the economic condition of the whole state. If we could all get together and lift all of these people to the material and economic level of just the national minimum, it would mean a tremendous push to the entire economy of the state.

Your editorial has pointed the way. I only hope the able men and women who lead the Indian, Eskimo and Aleut people will accept the challenge you have tendered them and will really begin to exercise their political power to the fullest extent possible.

Sincerely yours,  
/s/Wendell P. Kay  
Wendell P. Kay