

Letters to the Editor

The Village Council
Goodnews Bay, Alaska 99589
January 7, 1969

Social Development Corporation
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20036

January 8, 1969

The Honorable Stuart Udall
Secretary of the Interior,
U.S. Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C. 20242

Mr. Howard Rock, Editor
Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Sir:
In regards to the action taken by the United States Fish and Wildlife in planning to take over the Goodnews Bay area as well as the Nelson Islands, Nunivak and Bristol Bay as wild life conservation areas, we object to this action as it will greatly affect our way of life. We are

Dear Howard:
Charles J. Keim's two stories, "Point of View," in your January 3 issue are poignant, meaningful art. We have posted them on our bulletin board here at the Social Development Corporation where a small band of us is continually concerned about Alaska natives.

Sincerely,
Ralph Showalter
Executive Director

affect our way of life. We are not ready yet to be changed over to the whitemen's way, depending only on earnings. We still live off the land and this sudden change will make it a hardship for everyone.

(Editors Note: Two letters printed below came too late for last week's issue where they might have been more effective then, but the contents bear reading and the subject matter pertinent even though they might be a bit late.)

Cape Smythe Whaling & Trading Co.
Barrow, Alaska
Jan. 7, 1969

In regards to preserving wild-life, be advised that we kill only for subsistance. We do not hunt or kill for sport. We hunt or kill for food.

Dear Sir:

In December 1968, I wrote to Rev. J.R. Chambers and asked him to write Rev. William Wartes. These two fine men are pastors and gave very fine testimony through their unfailling work under the United Presbyterian Church of U.S.A. using Barrow as their headquarters for 14 years.

We will await your action regarding this grave situation on hand and expect your help in solving this problem.

These men know the problems of each village as they were both airplane pilots and their parish on the arctic coast was from Pt. Lay, West Wainwright, Barrow, Colville River Delta, and Barter Island, east.

Enclosed is a petition signed by the residents of Goodnews Bay, opposing the action by the Department of Fish and Game in taking over our area for wild life preservation.

South from Barrow, Meade River village, Umiat, and Anaktuvuk Pass, about 250 to 300 miles.

I was concerned with the "ESKIMO AND HIS FROZEN LAND." So much was happening even before we are made aware in the north land. Sizable areas were leased out or sold outright for millions of dollars by persons who bidded on them. This type of business the Eskimo can not understand. Yet it was being done on the land he makes his living from, very soon he will be restricted from using.

Going back to the two gentlemen; I felt these men could stir the national public so the voice of a people can be heard in the North Slope and I am enclosing the first letter I received from one of these men and ask you to print it so that it be read.

Thank you for your help. . .

Sincerely yours,
THE VILLAGE COUNCIL
Frank Bavilla, Sr.
PRESIDENT

cc: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bethel; Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Juneau; Village Council President's Association, St. Marys Tundra Times, Fairbanks; Platinum Village Council, Platinim; Village Council, Goodnews Bay; Representative George H. Hohman, Jr. Bethel.

Let me add this: I am sure Governor Walter Hickel appointed by President elect R.M. Nixon will make a good Secretary of the Interior.

He made a good Governor. Type of person—very progressive—and that is the type of person we need. Everyone is not perfect and the answers he gave at the spur of a moment should not be held altogether against him.

Yours truly,
Thomas P. Brower

5009 McKenna Road
Monona, Wisconsin 53716

7215 W. 93rd. Place
Los Angeles, California 90045
January 3, 1969



Chairman
Senate Interior Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Re: Appt. of Walter Hickel as
Sect. of Interior and the Eskimo
land and mineral claims in Arctic
Alaska.

Gentlemen:
I would like to have a pen pal. My name is Jayne Adrian. My age is 9. I am a girl. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Jayne Adrian

4916 Winnequah Rd.
Monona, Wisconsin 53716
January 2, 1969

Gentlennen:
I would like a pen pal. My name is Sherry Munz. I am a girl. My age is 9.

Sincerely,
Sherry Munz

5004 McKenna Rd.
Monona, Wisconsin 53716
January 2, 1969

Dear Sir:
Please put an article in your paper asking for a pen pal for me.

Name and age: Annette Rankin, age 10. I am a girl.

Yours Truly,
Annette Rankin

Dear Sir:
Prior to moving to Los Angeles in July 1964 I served six years as the Missionary-Pastor-Pilot for the North Arctic Slope Presbyterian Mission based at Barrow, Alaska.

I am delighted that an Alaskan is being proposed by President elect Richard M. Nixon, Gov. Walter Hickel, as Secretary of the Interior.

There is one major area which I urge your committee to explore with Mr. Hickel during the hearings about his appointment: What will he do to protect the interests of Arctic Slope Eskimos in the expanding mineral and oil development of the future?

In a communal sense these Eskimos have possessed and used the entire Arctic Slope North of the Brooks Range from the Canadian Border to Point Hope for Centuries. Without consulting the Eskimo the Department of Interior has leased much of the Arctic Slope for oil exploration. No provision has been made for any royalty to be set aside for the development of the Arctic for the benefits

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of the Eskimos directly. And even worse, no effort has been made to see that my Eskimo friends have first opportunity at jobs in the Arctic oil fields. If training is needed it should be provided.

Also, without consulting the Eskimo the U.S. Navy established Petroleum Reserve No. 4 which takes in most of the land within 150 miles of Barrow, Alaska. If and when this Reserve is opened for commercial development what provision will be made for the Eskimo to receive the royalty from the land which has always been his?

If the Federal Government unilaterally can proclaim that the public lands of Arctic Alaska are the property of all Americans and not just the Eskimo then it can also require companies developing the resources in that area to set aside so much per barrel of oil produced for the specific use of the Arctic Eskimo.

I will follow with deep interest the activities of your committee.

Sincerely yours,
John R. Chambers, (Rev.)

cc: Gov. Walter Hickel, Juneau, Alaska
State Senator Eben Hopson, Barrow, Alaska
Mr. Thomas Brower, Barrow, Alaska
The Alaska Congressional Delegation, Washington, D.C.
Senator Allan Cranston, Washington, D.C.
Rev. William Wartes, 833 So. Thistle, Seattle, Wash.