

Den Nena Henash - Our Land Speaks
Ut Kah neek - Informing and Reporting
Yupit Qanlautciat - The Way Eskimos Talk
Unangan Tunukun - The Aleuts Speak
Inupiat Paitot - People's Heritage

We should dismantle the BIA

To the editor:

I'd like to address this letter to the Alaska Federation of Natives, all the profit making corporations, both regional and village, formed under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, all non-profit Native organizations and all tribal village councils:

We should all stand behind one issue and that is dismantle the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the state of Alaska. Most of the money is going to administration costs anyway, about 70

to 80 percent of it.

Then send the monies directly to the tribal village councils and other non-profit Native organizations. This way we cut out the middleman or in this case a lot of bureaucracy.

Also, on the subsistence issue, I believe and so do many others, that we should and ought to keep the traditional use criteria intact.

Grover G. Riley
Minto

Clean air act doesn't do enough

To the editor:

Over half of all members of the Academy of Sciences and half of all American Nobel prize laureates signed a letter saying we have to stop fossil fuel burning if we want to save the earth.

There's a clean air act in Congress right now. It isn't going to even come close. In fact, it actually weakens the present legislation.

Right now we've got Sens. Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski and Congressman Don Young as our congressional delegation. Now,

everybody that's been in Alaska more than a week knows you aren't going to teach those old dogs new tricks.

They are anti-environment and pro big business, no matter what the cost. All of them are recipients of major contributions from the nuclear industry and none of them would support a veto override.

If we are going to try and do something, we've got to start now.

Sincerely,
Keefe E. Rayfield
Fairbanks

Concerns about fishery cuts

To the editor:

We are writing concerning our fishery. We are upset about our fishery that has been cut down for the following reasons:

We began with nothing and made it into a 100,000-pound annual fishery with small boats, making our own markets. We have more than 100 permittees depending on that fishery.

In 1988, the processor quit the day

before the season began, and halibut were plentiful. When a new processor was finally on site, we were already two weeks behind. Then the bottom water temperature went up to 52 degrees and halibut disappeared.

Small boats could not go offshore to look for halibut. The processor in Tununak broke down and Nelson Island fishermen did not fish due to a

continued on page three

Native housing programs must be funded

To Sen. Ted Stevens:

Alaska Native and American Indian housing programs are facing a zero budget for this 1991 fiscal year. Yet across the nation for our Alaska Native and American Indian communities there is a need for 93,000 new housing units.

In 1963 when housing was first introduced to our Alaska Native and American Indian communities there existed within our communities substandard, unsanitary and overcrowded living conditions. In 1990 these deplorable conditions still exist and have not been totally eliminated from our communities.

For the state of Alaska there is a need for 6,400 new housing units. Usually Alaska receives 7 to 20 percent of the national total as allocated by Congress. If we face a zero budget and we then receive no new housing units we are then defeating the purpose of why housing was introduced to our Alaska Native and American Indian communities.

The new homes not only provide shelter for our families who are in need of housing; they give an economic boost to the communities where these homes are built, for the construction puts several individuals to work.

Depending on the number of housing units existing in each of the communities when these new homes are under full management of the housing authorities it provides more job opportunities for it helps develop career opportunities for several individuals from within our communities.

Recent legislation created a separate entity called the Office of Indian Programs within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This separated us out of the public housing, and its purpose was to focus in on our housing needs and develop workable regulations for our Alaska and American Indian communities.

In the housing field we are still in our infant stages, and we have not been allowed to grow or expand, nor have we been given a full chance to

properly implement our housing programs. Since 1980, we have continued to face a zero budget. It is time to present an authorizing bill to have in place a proper budget to meet our housing needs across the nation.

Recent legislation, Public Law 101-235, the Housing Reform Bill of 1989, establishes a 12-member National Commission of Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Housing. It passed Congress last year to study and recommend what should be happening with our housing programs.

What we are facing is negative and adverse reports of the General Accounting Office on Alaska Native and Indian housing programs. Yet in November, Jack Kemp, Housing and Urban Development secretary, gave out 33 national awards, recognizing the accomplishments and achievements of excellence of our housing authorities.

Recent testimony offered to the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs included a request for 3,000 new

housing units. We support this request and ask for your support and to encourage your fellow senators to give support and vote on the housing needs for our Alaska Native and American Indian communities.

Within our Metlakatla Indian Community we have identified a need for 193 new homes. When eligible to receive these new units we are allocated from 15 to 30 homes. At the current rate of allocation of new homes it would take us from six to 12 years to fully meet our housing needs.

For the State of Alaska at the current rate of allocations of new housing units, it would take us 11 to 24 years to meet our housing needs for our Alaska Native communities.

We are in critical need for our housing programs and we ask for your continued support of our Alaska Native and Indian Housing programs.

Sincerely,
Terrance H. Booth
Metlakatla Housing Authority
Metlakatla

• Nelson Island fishermen issue plea

continued from page two

shortage of gas. Two weeks later it was too late to go to another place.

In 1988, there were only two weeks of fishing, and processors did not come due to low gas.

In 1989, there was no halibut processor on site to make money in Tununak and no gas to deliver to Toksook Bay. Nelson Island fishermen did not fish at all.

In 1989, the Prince William Sound oil spill took all the barges. People did not have reasonably priced gasoline at less than \$2 a gallon until late July. Gas flown in sold for a little over \$5 a gallon in June, and it was impossi-

ble for the fishermen to make any money.

With herring declining due to unregulated bycatch by U.S. trawlers in the Bering Sea, our people may not have a commercial herring fishery. There may be closures on the subsistence herring fishing, our only economy.

We do not have a commercial salmon fishery. Halibut is our only income.

Our small boats cannot compete with the 32-foot Bristol Bay sized boats that can travel north past Cape Newenham to make landing, denying our people of quota and needed in-

come. Bristol Bay fishermen already have a salmon economy.

Nelson Island people have no commercial salmon fishery. We know that Bristol Bay did not do this, nor do they want this, and they support the Nelson Island position.

We would greatly appreciate it if all would be reconsidered before it happens again to all Nelson Island fishermen.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

David Bill Sr., chairman
Qaluyaat Herring Association
Tununak

