

# We must stand together as Inupiat

To the Editor:

I was greatly upset by an article in the May 11, 1982 issue of the Anchorage Times and the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

The article stated where a Barrow Whaling Captain was threatened with a \$10,000 fine or a year in prison apparently with the blessings of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission.

For all its intents and purposes the AEWC was formed to protect our traditional whaling rights which were passed on generation to generation. The whaling rights which were with us long before the Federal Government which imposed the whaling quotas on us was formed.

The AEWC made an agreement with the Federal Government where it could be self-governing and regulate itself. The AEWC made some good regulations which are agreeable to a lot of people.

But in a traditional whaling society there are traditional laws and rules which we must

abide by when whaling. Traditional laws and rules which were passed on generation to generation. If you don't call this self-regulating, I don't know what is. The only thing AEWC got stuck with was to enforce the whaling quota set by the Federal Government.

How soon we forget the past treaties and agreements the Federal Government have made with our neighboring aboriginals in the United States. Treaties and agreements

which were constantly broken by the Federal Government.

We are where they want us. Inupiat against Inupiat.

So this is where we stand divided and manipulated by the Federal Government to go against each other. This must stop and together and the Inupiat people we can.

It is for the Inupiat people the whaling captains traditionally hunt the whales and meet our traditional wants and nutri-

tional needs as Inupiat. Only when they satisfy those needs the whaling captains stop whaling.

We as an Inupiat people have put our whaling captains in a place of leadership and respect. So let our Inupiat people decide on an issue which is so critical for our common bond and identity as Inupiat.

Let us face reality and look deep into ourselves and ask. Is this what I want and what we want as Inupiat people? To lose our whaling rights just because of a Federal government which don't understand our traditional needs and beliefs.

For our future and our children's future we must unite again as the Inupiat people.

Together we will win for our traditional whaling rights or together as the Inupiat we shall be condemn by the Federal Government.

Sincerely,

Roy Nageak  
An Inupiat

# Legislative kindergarten in Juneau

To the Editor:

I recently had a two week opportunity to view the Alaskan representatives in action in their natural environment. It was a memorable and informative experience, to say the least.

A few interesting incidents I witnessed during the sessions stayed in my mind. For instance, the time the Honorable Ray Metcalfe shot a couple of rubberbands at his buddy across the room. This wasn't enough to interrupt the debate in process, but when Rep. Terry Gardiner fell asleep and tipped his chair over it made sufficient noise to halt the already unsteady progress.

From that point on the situation deteriorated rapidly. It was obvious that the Honor-

able Ray Metcalfe had a grudge against certain members of the Democratic party. He made this clear to the observers by making faces at these democrats during their speeches.

Rep. Metcalfe was not alone in his inappropriate behavior; Rep. Mitch Abood showed his equally sophomoric humor by putting his glasses on the back of his head after House Speaker Joe Hayes rebuked him for joining Rep. Metcalfe in making faces.

A welcome diversion was provided by Representative Vern Hurlbert when he brought in a new toy to show off. It was charming to see at least 30 grown men crowding around him and marveling at the action of the mechanical toy.

Enjoy the show, Alaska! These are the adults you have

chosen to represent your people. Too bad we don't see any of this on the legislative coverage.

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