

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Other Voices—

Land Use: The Mob Moves in

The Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission hearings held in Anchorage recently might be compared to a small-time poker game suddenly overrun by a big-time organized crime syndicate.

Everybody placed their bets in the game Wednesday, when the old familiar crowd showed up to make remarks aimed at the dealer (Joe Josephson, co-chairman of the planning commission) and at the house of commissioner's, before leaving with intentions of returning whenever the payoff was due. Native players John Shively and Roger Lang even left the city thinking the outcome was obvious.

The conservationist players' bid for public access to private lands and room to chase butterflies. Then Native representatives ordered the commission to quit messing around with the cards and start dealing from the top of the deck before they decided to go somewhere else to play. Various other players then suggested everything from taking Native chips and passing them out for other players to extending the game time so they could bring their buddies. It was a familiar Alaskan poker game among statewide adversaries — before the big boys showed up.

Jules Tileston represented the Bureau of Land Management gangster's pitch to the Commission Thursday. He said from now on the local easement game would be run differently, with big time transportation and utility corridor jokers thrown in for kicks. It now appears that this new poker game may have the biggest stakes yet of the Alaska Statehood-Section 17(d) (2) Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act grab-it-while-you-can bazaar.

The first part of the bazaar made the state an arm of the crime syndicate, the second part is a hitch in what Alaska Natives thought would make them yet another arm of that same organization. Now both arms are finding out they've been used only as a means to an end and their little poker games are being shoved ass-side for the mob's interests in Washington D.C. as well as the oil and mineral interests behind them.

The newly appointed Native representative to the planning commission, John Schaeffer, was quick to realize the deck was stacked after BLM presented its Multimodel Transportation and Utility Corridor Systems bid. He noted that federal application of the study was already occurring in his part of the state.

Based on an assumption that all Alaska natural resources of special interest to the mob will automatically be extracted as soon as possible, the BLM proposal should come as a great surprise to Alaskans. The mob has a long history of exploiting raw materials from under-developed, third-world countries, of creating markets for its own best interests, and of securing a cheap labor force (such as the one which will come after the rural Native population is uprooted by development interests). That's just the way big-time criminals operate.

So now the game is joined by the previously behind-the-scenes kibitzers. Alaska Natives may someday own some land through their village and regional corporations, which will in turn be at the mercy of those who use the corridors around and through all Alaska land; whether it's highway users, various construction workers, pipeline maintainers, tourists or whoever.

Letters from Here and There

Stickman Back In North Slope

Alyeska Pipeline
Cold Foot, Alaska

Dear Editor:

Well, I'm out here on the North Slope again. Free room and board again, also free ride. First time I started to get free ride from them once in a while as I was the first Indian that chartered them in 1929. Took Father Mack, my Mom and Dad from Tanana to Nulato. That's the year of the flu.

I went home to Nulato to stay but I couldn't sleep much thinking about the Slope, 10 hours a day, 7 days a week, and also them 17 empty drums I was supposed to burn, \$15 a drum. That's \$255 for empty drums. Who is the damn fool to buy, or

deposit money, for empty drums? If I pay for them, I must be, or will be, the fool. So I won't pay.

Well, I hope they start another "Line" in Fairbanks soon, like it used to be in 1927 on 4th Avenue.

So long, hope to see you soon. With regards.

Fred Stickman, Sr.

Natives Always Had Leaders

Stevens Village, Alaska 99774
November 18, 1974

Dear Editor:

In angriness, the following words were written by me. I am an Indian who resides in my village. I am on the village council; I am not a member of the village

corporation board. I have nothing to do with its direction. So, with that in mind, here are my words.

There is one civil government in our village: the traditional government and his council. I say traditional because all second class city, first class city and borough governments are, indeed, a second generation of the traditional governments. To deny at this late stage that the Indians did not have their chiefs and the Eskimos their leaders is to deny that these Natives were not directed. Wherever we were going, we were led; or as they say in the white world, "we had a president".

But our president in those days was leading his people to the road of survival: to keep alive from the cold in the winter and from the dangerous Native enemies in the summer. Today, our "president" must still protect his people. Today it is not from a physical death, but from a mental death.

A mental death by the continued loss of his people's possessions based from the land. "Each death in a man diminishes me," a famous white poet wrote centuries ago. The village council leader suffers a silent heartbreak when he can actually — this year — see his horizon. When he can stand in the center of his earth and look around in a circle and see office buildings, factory smoke, private airplanes, roads, white hunters and white tourists, he dies a silent death. These objects, you see, are his boundaries; these objects, you see, are his horizons.

Corporation. Our own village corporation was born from a white father's blood; it is based and created from money. A concept which white people never could control. Understood maybe, but never controlled. (Indeed, it controls them.)

But they passed it on to us and now we Natives who live and breathe and stand in the center of the earth (and all its possessions), must stand in the center of the most confusing and illusory objects of all: money.

P.S. There is no center in money.

Sincerely,
Reggie Joseph

28 Proposals Not Easy to Read

Ronald H. Brower
P.O. Box 675
Barrow, Alaska 99723
November 18, 1974

Dear Mr. Rock:

It is becoming more and more evident that an agency of the Federal government is still subject to Federal regulations which should have died a half century ago.

In this, I refer to the Department of the Interior and the type of supremacist policy it is initiating in its 28 proposals for parks, wildlifes, refuges and preserves in Alaska under the authority of the A.N.L.C.A. The 28 proposals are written in a language context beyond the capability of the average citizen who has had little exposure to the language of English.

The meaning of the proposals when taken into context points a situation the Department of the Interior believes. Simply, since Alaska natives are not capable of

Your Dental Health

No. 26 — Preventive Orthodontics

Preventive orthodontics for an adult starts with a committee of two — you and your dentist. With children it takes three — patient, parent and dentist.

But if Jonny already needs braces, preventive orthodontics involves an awareness of possible problems and regular observation of your child's mouth and oral habits.

The first step is to recognize that malocclusion, the improper contact between the teeth and jaws when biting, is a disorder — you can work to prevent it. Many children do achieve a normal occlusion in which teeth are positioned properly, but probably more do not. This may be due to some deterring factor such as decay, loss of teeth due to accident, or oral habits such as thumbsucking or tongue thrusting.

Preventive orthodontics begins with infants. The mouth of the breast-fed infant develops in the best way. The bottle-fed babies have a higher incidence of malocclusion.

From the time they erupt, baby teeth should be watched closely. The occlusion of the first teeth has a big effect on permanent teeth.

These first teeth reserve the space for the permanent teeth developing below the gums. Wear marks and other signs on the baby teeth can tell the dentist that crossbite or other problems are beginning.

If a permanent tooth is ready to erupt but is has no room, the tooth may come in crooked and push other teeth out of line. For this reason, it is sometimes necessary to extract baby teeth. The proper loss of a first tooth at 7 years of age can prevent orthodontic treatments at age 11.

Missing teeth, lost because of decay or accident, create a vacancy that neighboring teeth may try to fill. For children, your

dentist may insert a space.

Thumbsucking and mouth breathing are two habits that can cause orthodontic problems. Abnormal swallowing is frequently associated with these habits, causing even greater oral deformation. After four years of age, a child's teeth and jaws can be permanently affected by thumbsucking. Breaking these habits is an age-old problem.

Abnormal swallowing can also lead to tongue thrusting which is even more damaging and should be eliminated, if at all possible.

Mouth breathing, often caused by enlarged tonsils and adenoids, can cause slack upper lips, dry and oversized lower lips, irregularly shaped upper incisors, buck teeth and uneven teeth throughout the mouth. Surgery may be indicated here and, if done early enough, the child will return to breathing through his nose. Allergies are of concern too since they may be responsible for the "hangdog" expression of the mouth breather.

Preventive orthodontics cover a large field within dentistry. Anything that will help prevent future problems is considered — from water fluoridation to proper toothbrushing and from limitation of sweet snacks to occasional necessary extractions of overly crowded permanent teeth.

Good dental care at home and in the dental office is the first and best preventive for dental problems. With some attention to proper diet, oral hygiene and regular dental examination, a person need not lose his teeth or encounter major dental problems during his lifetime.

The keyword in preventive orthodontics is "timing." Let the child's dentist decide when it is "time" to extract a tooth, break a bad habit or enforce a better health habit.

(Next article: "What You Should Know About Dentures")

The next hand of the new poker game is scheduled to be dealt whenever the BLM representatives are allowed to hold public hearings "locating a statewide multimodel transportation and utility corridor system" as they have proposed to do in their report. Such a game would be yet another trick for them because the question never has been how, when or where to put corridors, at all. The real question is: Are corridors all over the state necessary? But just try to get the mob to understand that.

— DONN LISTON

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