

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 illusionary 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

(Continued on Page 11)

Letters

(Continued from Page 2)

making decisions for themselves. We should therefore make policies, guidelines and regulations for them to follow.

In realizing these proposals the Department of the Interior feels that all the aboriginal people of Alaska should revert to a cash economy which for that matter is still quite new to this part of the world. The Department then wants to remove these people's rights on subsistence style of life. This life style, subsistence hunting, has been enjoyed here over 10,000 years!

The Department also feels that the aboriginal people will destroy the wildlife, which they have utilized for centuries, by overkilling. If the people had done so, Alaska would not have any wild game today! In fact, an ecological balance has been maintained over 10,000 years by these people!

It is a shame that a government who believes in justice and equality allow such conduct by using a complex terminology in words.

Respectfully yours,
Ronald H. Brower

cc: Senator Mike Gravel
Roger Lang, AFN President