

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



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Major Decisions Should Be Studied

Major changes in the delivery of health services to Native people are being planned. Planning is going on by Natives and others to contract for health care to Natives in this state. Since that is a decision that has many implications some good and some bad — careful thought must be given before such a decision is reached.

Because it affects all Natives it is too important a question to be left to a few people to make. It should be the subject of a special and large meeting where open discussion on both sides of the question are heard before an effort is made to contract.

There are many questions to be answered for instance:
— Where would the technical expertise come from to run a health system?

— Could a private contractor attract and hold the same level of qualified doctors as the PHS can - without much greater cost?

— When new equipment or remodeling or new hospitals are needed can a contractor expect to do better than the PHS?

Some of the reasons for contracting might be:

— Self determination (Does that mean running the hospitals? If so, why not get our trained people into the PHS system? In fact that is happening.)

— Better care (with no money than PHS operates on no contractor can really expect to provide better care without much more money to do so.)

— Expanded rural services (The cost to build health centers is more than can be gotten out of the present budget.)

There certainly is a role for Native participation in the delivery of health. What that role is should be carefully defined after thorough discussion. But some of the areas that could be moved into soon could be:

— Lobbying - with a unified and strong AFN. The role best played by AFN could be a strong lobby effort on behalf of better health care for Alaska's Natives.

— Policy board - The role of the policy board could be strengthened and broadened.

— Provide for the extension of para-medics into rural Alaska.

We should not forget that for many years the Federal Government has been trying to get out of health delivery to Native Americans. The House Committee Report No. 848 which accompanied H.R. 1063, before it became P.L. 280 in 1953 stated as one of its goals:

"Enactment of legislation terminating certain services provided by the Indian Bureau for Indians by transferring responsibility for such services to other governmental or private agencies, or to the Indians themselves."

The report noted the committee had programmed legislation divesting the BIA of services to Indians for health. Health services would be transferred to HEW which would in turn transfer this responsibility to states, counties, or municipal subdivisions or private non-profit corporations when satisfactory arrangements could be made.

We should consider that the federal government has no obligations to any contractor. The government would have no more obligations to a health contractor than it does to a road building contractor, they are private businessmen. So at some time in the future if money got tighter than it is now, an easy place to save money would be to cut out contractors and if that happened there would then be no health service to Alaska's Natives (who still have some of the worst health statistics in the Nation).

We are playing right into the hands of those who want to terminate service to Indians by pressing for a contract as

Letters from Here and There

Businessman Clarifies Position

Michael R. Johnson Gallery
108 South Jackson Street
Seattle, Washington 98104

Mr. Joe Hotch
Box 525
Haines, Alaska 99827

Dear Mr. Hotch:
I am sending you this second letter to clarify my position regarding my business in S.E. Alaska. Although we have not met, I know that you must be very concerned to have written to me and also to have sent copies to several newspapers.

I am a successful businessman in many endeavors but my one lifelong interest is in art and the preservation of objects such as those in the village of Klukwan. I have a deep appreciation of Tlingit culture and Art through a lifelong study and many years of travel in S.E. Alaska.

It is quite true that I have offered unprecedented amounts of money for some objects. There is a great concern by many individuals and museums that the few objects left might be lost to future generations, because of fire or deterioration. As you know, many of these objects are kept in empty houses without heat control or fire precautions. Of course I understand that it is very expensive to bring out these objects in the old time way, and now almost impossible to afford to keep up a clan house as well as a private home.

I am not suggesting that the Tlingit people do not respect and feel proud of their heritage. Most Tlingits I know take great pride in their background.

You said in your letter that it is degrading for Tlingits to sell tribal artifacts. I must again remind you that my interest is in saving the old objects, many of which are in need of repair. I am not trying to buy the traditions which only a Tlingit can inherit. In the old days, when a chief wanted to show his position, he had new carvings made to replace the old ones. This has never been a shameful thing. Perhaps it is time to regenerate some of the old traditions and save the older objects as well.

There are now fine carvers who can replace the older objects with new ones of equal quality. I know also that there are many people in Klukwan who are deeply concerned about the future of the old objects. Perhaps the many thousands of dollars which I am offering could actually build new tribal houses and create carvings to help regenerate some of the old clan and tribal traditions.

I take exception to only one part of your letter of May 27. Those who know me will tell you that I have never purchased any objects from anyone who has been drinking. I deeply regret that others in the past have done so.

I hope that my activities can be appreciated as a sincere form of admiration for great Tlingit Art. I would be happy to meet you at any time and talk further about these matters.

Sincerely,
Michael R. Johnson
CC: Chilkat Valley News
Voice of Brotherhood
Tundra Times
Alaska Daily News
Mr. Victor Hotch
Mr. Dick Hotch
Mrs. Mildred Sparks
Mrs. Martha Willard.

Salvation Army Plans Capital Improvement

June 19, 1975

Tundra Times
510 Second Ave., Room 220
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Howard:
As a member of the Executive Committee of The Salvation Army Advisory Board of Anchorage, I would like to interest you in the first Capital Improvement Campaign of this fine organization that has served needy Alaskans for more than seventy seven years.

evidenced by a report written 22 years ago. So if we press for a health contract we should do it by consensus of those most affected — so far that decision has been made by only a handful of people.

Priority goal of the campaign is to raise the balance of \$85,050 needed to complete the purchase and remodel a 4,000 square foot building with parking lot at 728 East Ninth Avenue in Anchorage for a Salvation Army statewide services headquarters.

The total cost of the vitally needed facility is \$220,050 of which \$11,000 has already been received from local contributions and \$125,000 as a grant from The Salvation Army Western Territorial Headquarters.

At the present time, the statewide services headquarters of The Salvation Army is located in part of the community center facilities at 135 East Eighth Avenue in space needed for a social services bureau to serve Anchorage and for growing senior citizen activities.

If the Capital Improvement Campaign exceeds \$85,050 the overage will be used towards acquiring emergency shelters, rehabilitation and community centers and construction of cabins at the statewide camp.

The Capital Improvement Campaign will be conducted by volunteer members of The Salvation Army Advisory Board of Anchorage so that expenses can be kept to a minimum.

Enclosed you will find further information on the campaign. Your generous contribution and/or pledge over the next two years will involve you in the statewide humanitarian services provided uniquely by your Salvation Army.

Yours sincerely,
Virgil E. Knight

Vice Chairman
The Salvation Army
Advisory Board of Anchorage.

Questions 13th Region

Anacortes, Washington
May 23, 1975

Judge Oliver Gasch
United States District Court
Washington, D.C.

Judge Oliver Gasch:
I am questioning your authority on being able to order a formation of the Thirteenth (13) District? I believe as Stockholders in the Alyeska Pipeline, we have all the right to protest a Thirteenth (13) and as our rights to vote for or against it. I am pretty well assured the Thirteenth (13) will not be put in. Because we do not reside in Alaska now or maybe in the future does not mean we will give up our Heritage. The Thirteenth (13) as far as we are concerned is just a waste of our inheritance. Why should Seattle be included, it is definitely not a part of Alaska any more than New York or Hawaii or any other State!

I would appreciate an answer to this question put before you.

Sincerely,
Ms. Clara Lindquist
303 Q Avenue
Anacortes, Washington 98221
Phone 206 293 6823

Becomes Law— Dissolves SOS System

Compromise legislation dissolving the controversial State-Operated School system became law with Governor Jay Hammond's signature last week of the free conference committee

A Book Review— THE SKAGWAY STORY

More than a story of vigilantes and villains, "The Skagway Story," a new book offering of Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, covers the full sweep of the historic "Gateway to the Klondike" from its founding to today.

Along the way there are visionaries, like Capt. Billy Moore, who planned to capitalize on the location's potential and founded the city; villains like the notorious Jefferson Randolph "Soapy" Smith, and common folk like Martin Itjen, who became Alaska's first tour director.

Author Howard Clifford researched files, old newspapers and scores of books in his effort to present the "real" Skagway as it was and as it is.

In addition, Clifford personally interviewed those few remaining individuals who were there to see it all, from Skagway's heights as a boom town of 15,000 to its quiet present as a tourist town of 700 and the terminus of the White Pass and Yukon Route.

Amplly illustrated with historic photos, many from private collections, "The Skagway Story" traces the history of a community and its people through the crucible of good and bad times, an experience that forged an indomitable community spirit.

"The Skagway Story," 167 pages is available from Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, P.O. Box 4-EEE, Anchorage, Alaska 99509. Single copies are priced \$7.95, soft cover.

substitute for Senate Bill 35.

The new bill affects the organization and control of public education in the unorganized borough, giving the responsibility for operating and administering rural schools to regional school boards.

"The effect of the new law," explained Director of Educational Program Support, Marilou Madden, "will be to bring decision making much closer to the people affected by the educational programs. We expect more flexibility in program offerings and staffing, flexibility directed at meeting unique needs of specific areas."

The transition from the State-Operated School system to the locally administered schools will take place over the next year, from July 1, 1975, to June 30, 1976, by which time regional school boards must be fully established and operational.

The regional boards will have the same powers and duties as do municipal boards now, including responsibility for developing policies and philosophies of education, the right to hire and fire, direct curriculum, administer funds and supervise construction.

Coordination of the transition rests with the Department of Community and Regional Affairs and the Department of Education.

The first step in the transitional process will be the establishing of regional boundaries defining the regional educational attendance areas. That process began this week with the two departments drawing tentative boundaries, using basically the boundaries of the Native regional corporations as guidelines.

Next, a series of statewide public hearings on these boundaries will be held.

Deputy Commissioner of Education Nathaniel Cole explained, "To the extent that we can satisfy the needs of the people in regard to defining regional attendance areas, we will do it."

The two departments, coordinating with appropriate agencies, may also establish sub-regions, if necessary, to

(Continued on Page 6)