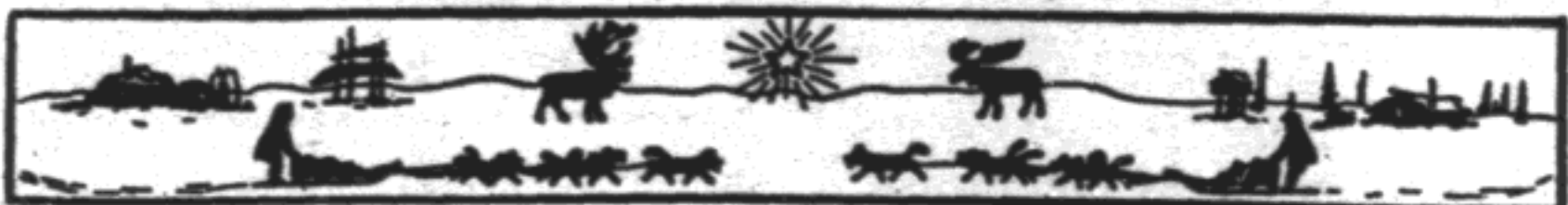


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Editorial—

The Background for Special Consideration

When members of the board of directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives were in Washington recently, they presented a position paper for consideration by the Senate Interior Committee—the committee that is working on the final draft of the Alaska native land claims bill under the chairmanship of Sen. Henry M. Jackson. The paper dwelt heavily on the uniquely different situation of the Arctic Eskimos. Some of it dealt with their modes of making a living and subsistence. The greatest point, however, was the Arctic Eskimo's deep feeling for their lands of which they have always felt was their own—and the vast riches it contained.

The position paper was a request for special consideration in the land bill for the Arctic people. The request was somewhat late in coming. The Arctic Slope Native Association officials have in the past tried for consideration by the AFN of the unique status of the Arctic Eskimos but with little success. The full impact of it was finally hammered through at the Juneau meeting by an eloquent presentation of Joseph Upicksoun, president of the ASNA. Also witnessing the speech was some of the AFN legal team members including Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General.

"... Our problem can be stated this way," declared Joseph Upicksoun in part. "We came into this Federation bringing with us 56.5 million acres, vast riches in oil—enough to provide and protect the security of the United States—enough to require the Congress of the United States to settle the claims of all Alaskan Natives—enough to make the State tax free and enough to make the business community of Alaska and the oil companies rich..."

(Joseph Upicksoun's speech is printed elsewhere on the editorial page: Editor.)

The Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, as does, and will, its counterpart in the U.S. House of Representatives, knows what Upicksoun has said. The appeal was a moving one and an eloquent one. It was, and is, a voice that embraces the true feelings of 4,000 Arctic Eskimos who are seeking justice in the resolution of the land claims, along with their fellow native people in the rest of the State of Alaska.

It is a powerful statement that should not fall on deaf ears. Rather, it should arouse a sense of justice in the minds of those responsible people who are, and will, have a great deal to do with the settlement of the Alaskan native land problem.

The Hospital Week

This week is National Hospital Week, an appropriate time to take a close look at our local hospital.

Most of us think of our local hospital, if we think much about it at all, as a place to go if we need care. It is a familiar building, one which many of us pass every day. It's reassuring to know that it is there if and when we need it.

Stop for a moment and consider what it takes for that hospital to be ready to care for us. Consider what it takes in terms of manpower, material and money. Most of what it takes, you as a patient or visitor never see.

Persons in over 200 job classifications are employed in a hospital. It takes over 270 persons to serve 100 patients. It requires more than 10,000 items to equip a hospital. These items range from abrasives to x-ray film, from ammeters to wringers. All of this, of course, requires money.

(Continued on page 6)

ASNA Asks Special Consideration

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following position paper of the Arctic Slope Native Association was delivered by Joseph Upicksoun, president of the organization, recently at the meeting of the Alaska Federation of Natives board of directors meeting in Juneau. ASNA is the association of the Arctic Eskimos affiliated with AFN.)

THE POSITION OF THE ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION

April 19, 1970

Our understanding of the Senate Committee's version of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act is that four of our village will get altogether not to exceed 92,000 acres and Barrow will get not to exceed 46,000 acres, depending upon what some Commission will award.

On the money side, we will get about \$14 million. Furthermore, the money will likely go to municipal corporations.

About the land, if the village is in the center of its township, as Barter Island, for example, we can walk three miles from the village and come to the boundary of our award; at Barrow we would get an area six miles by twelve miles.

Our problem can be stated this way: We came into this Federation bringing with us 56.5 million acres, vast riches in oil—enough to provide and protect the security of the United States—enough to require the Congress of the United States to settle the claims of all Alaskan Natives—enough to make the State tax free and enough to make the business community of Alaska and the oil companies rich.

We know that all the Natives of Alaska are disappointed about the amount of land in the Senate Committee's bill, but let us look at the North Slope Eskimo for a moment. Society has not touched our people and land until the last year or two. We have had complete dominion over our lands, have been happy in running our lives.

The State and the United States really have not bothered about us much. Many of our villages have never had schools or even missionaries. Compare that with some of the concentration of Federal and State efforts elsewhere in Alaska. The point is that in the past the North Slope Eskimo has had only feeble assistance from organized government.

We believe there will be 10,000 miles of pipelines and of highways on the North Slope, some of which are built over our Father's graves. But aside from the emotional trouble, supposing there be an oil spill or a well of gas or oil catch fire or a tanker be shipwrecked. Who will suffer?

Secretary Hickel required the oil companies to indemnify the Federal government for any damage, but who will pay the North Slope Eskimo for the destruction of our lands or caribou or fish?

Our conclusion is that the State of Alaska wants to steal our lands, the Senate Committee wants to buy our lands and to pay the other Natives of Alaska. The other Natives of Alaska are willing and happy to be paid out of our lands. The State is now rich out of our lands. The oil companies want to build a pipeline by experiment over our lands. The United States wants to provide for its own security against foreign enemies out of our land.

Through the years, we have been devoted citizens of the United States. Once upon a time, we had World War II and the United States was worried about the Arctic. It sent its soldiers up there for defense. They flunked, because the Army didn't even know how to dress or live or survive.

And so the Territorial Guard was organized, composed entirely of North Slope Eskimos. We were the security of the United States and we were proud that through the years and today we are the only units in the world who can provide such security.

We have tried to become citizens, in the fullest sense, of the United States, but from 1914 to 1923, for example, there were some of our villages with no schools at all. Even Eben Hopson, who today is only 47 years old, was knowingly denied the opportunity to go to high school only thirty years ago. In other words, the Federal government has through the years failed in its responsibilities to us.

And now today, we believe the Federation has failed to support the North Slope Eskimos and we are distraught, we are frightened and our people are angry, or will be when we tell them, as we must, what the Senate Committee has done.

By direct orders from the Steering Committee just one year ago, the Federation forbade our own representatives from testifying before the Senate Committee. We cooperated and this is what we got.

Even what we get we must share some of it with a non-Native who joins our villages, because whatever we get will likely go to a municipal corporation. A newcomer automatically joins a municipal corporation just by moving there. We are not against somebody moving into our villages. But why should a person who is not a North Slope Eskimo be paid for North Slope lands?

This is our land. In the whiteman's society, where we are bound for, people value private property. We as North Slope Eskimos want our private property for ourselves, just as John D. Rockefeller did for himself. That is the whiteman's idea and in a whiteman's world, we adopt it.

The theory of the Senate Committee's bill is a social welfare program and we urge that you reject that theory. We recommend that we return to the undeniable basic principle which are self-evident and cannot be denied—that we return to a LAND CLAIMS settlement and fight a social welfare program.

We will continue to sit in your councils but we do not promise cooperation. We must regroup and plan our own action, hopefully with you but we feel that we have been cheated. Yes, we have been hurt, hurt by the Secretary of the Interior, by the oil companies, by the State of Alaska, by the Federal government, by the Senate Committee, and by the Federation.

The Arctic Slope Native Association wants to know what you, the Federation, are going to do about it.

—JOSEPH UPICKSOUN
President, Arctic Slope Native Association

How to Cook Your Husband

By GEORGE JENNINGS GALE

Some women ruin their husbands by cooking poorly while others keep them in hot water constantly. A few even keep them in deep freeze.

No husband will be good and tender if treated by these means. However, very, very often, they are deliciously tender if handled the right way. But don't try to keep the husband in the kettle by force because he will keep himself there anyway even if left alone.

If friend husband sputters and
(Continued on page 6)

Letters to the Editor

United States Senate
Committee on Interior and
Insular Affairs
Washington D.C. 20510

May 5, 1970

Dear Howard:

I have noticed your recent stories concerning the dispute over the two versions of the Tlingit-Haida judgment bill.

As you know, Congressman Pollock and I introduced one version of the bill—that was the bill given to us by the attorneys for the Tlingit-Haida Council. Your articles refer to this version as the "Stevens bill." To me this is unfortunate because S.2628 is the Tlingit-Haida bill.

I have not argued with the goal that Mike wants to achieve by his version of the bill (S.2650). Rather, I have attempted to represent the decision of the majority of the Tlingit and Haida people as reaffirmed again at their recent convention in Anchorage.

It has been my feeling that we can modify some of the traditions in this field in the Alaska Native land claims settlement bill. To do so in the Tlingit and Haida bill will delay that settlement which has already passed the House. If this is what the Tlingit and Haida people desired, I would support it.

At the hearings on this bill I stated that I did not disagree with Mike in the goal he sought to achieve but did not think this was the vehicle by which to achieve it.

Cordially,
Ted Stevens
United States Senator

Nulato, Alaska
May 9, 1970

Dear Editor:

Every year, fall and spring it's hard to get water, wood, and what we need is cold storage. We can't afford freezer. Electricity is too high, etc. I had to throw some fish and meat. It got too strong.

When we get "our land" settlement, things will be different.

As far back as I could remember, this is the time of year we used to get ready for a flood. We put all our clothes and stuff on to higher caches. Start pitching, painting, caulking, fixing the boats and barges, canoes, and some even make rafts.

Now I notice last fall all the lakes were almost dry of water. That means we need another flood soon. That's Nature.

I hope no one starts to bomb the river this year and kill all the fish, besides try to force Nature by bombing. We need all the fish. We fished here all winter and all last summer since I got laid off.

—Fred Stickman, Sr.