

# Letter to Editor

Box 932

Hoonah, Alaska

Dear Editor:

In regard to your recent article of the Internal Battles of ASCAP and its selection of a permanent director, I believe the people of this State are being led to believe that the best interest of them were not considered when the selection was made; THIS IS NOT TRUE. It was with their best interests at heart that the new director was selected.

I am the Southeastern area representative on the ASCAP Board of Directors and also the vice president of ASCAP, and I supported the selection of Mr. Lekanof. My reasons for this were very simple, I believed he could do the best job for all the people of Alaska of the applicants, which there were 24 considered. I had no one try to influence me from any agency, the only amount of pressure I felt was that from supporters of Mr. Fothergill, mainly ASCAP staff. They stated that he was the only man that could win this WAR ON POVERTY which I do not believe, as the WAR ON POVERTY will never be won by one man. I believe that loyalty to the boss is wonderful but that loyalty to the cause and your people is worth more. I believe the selection of the new director was made in a very fair and democratic way after many, many hours of research and debate.

Miss Tansy's statement that she made the final decision to resign when Mr. Lekanof stated he would be working in full co-operation with the Governor, shows her lack of good judgement and immaturity, as ASCAP has to operate with the full co-operation of the Governor and both State and Federal agencies. We have to use every facility available to us if we intend on winning this war. After all it was us poor people that elected him Governor to work in our behalf; there is also a OEO requirement that he sign all of our proposed projects, surely we couldn't expect this if we were fighting two wars, one on poverty and the other with existing agencies.

I feel I did what was best for my people of Alaska and the War on Poverty which I have been working towards an end for many years before the OEO was ever established.

I hope everyone will give Mr. Lekanof the chance he justly deserves in proving that he can be a good administrator of the War on Poverty.

Sincerely,

Marlene Johnson

S.E. Area Representative

ASCAP Board of Directors