

Island Petitions On Retirement Benefits

St. Paul Island, Alaska
February 28, 1966

Howard Rock, Editor
TUNDRA TIMES
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Mr. Rock:

We hope you will publish this petition in the next issue of the TUNDRA TIMES.

This petition is in regard to Section 209 of Bill S2102, concerning Civil Service Retirement Benefits, opposed by the Civil Service Commission and the Bureau of Budgets. Because they feel that the men who retired prior to 1950 should not receive Civil Service Retirement benefits.

We wish to thank you for all the support you and your staff have given us in the past.

Sincerely yours,

Nicolai Melovidov
Acting President
The Aleut Community
Council

St. Paul Aleut Community
St. Paul Island, Alaska

Senator Bartlett
Washington D.C.

Re Section 209 on Civil Service Retirement Benefits

We pray the said retirement benefits will be passed for the benefit of the older Aleuts and to the other Aleuts prior to 1950.

WHEREAS our grandfathers and fathers faithfully served the government for years without adequate compensation.

WHEREAS we, the Aleuts of St. Paul Community, were also given inadequate issues, such as food, clothing, household goods and education.

WHEREAS we, the Aleuts, through our labor built the homes for the aid of residents and nonresidents and government facilities without any complaint, feeling that we would be secure throughout our lives according to the treaty that was established.

WHEREAS prior to 1950 the older men who retired were not given retirement benefits. These men stayed alive by getting food from the head of household with whom they lived and from the small monthly income given them by the canteen, years of service should take priority over the other factors in considering retirement benefits.

WHEREAS the retired men and the ones who will retire in the future could not afford to live on present retirement benefits due to high cost of living.

WHEREAS we, the Aleuts of St. Paul Island Community, feel the older people who retired prior to 1950 saved the government a tremendous amount of capital.

WHEREAS if they had received wages it would have cost the government a greater amount of money.

WHEREAS the sealing bonus was the only source of income received per year to support our families, and such as food, clothing, household furniture and so forth.

WHEREAS the government and government officials that administered the Oribilofs did not advise the people for their future support after retiring due to illness, we are using

the above because we, the Aleuts, were not conscious that there was such a thing as retirement benefits, if we did, we certainly could have made provisions to the best of our ability.

Again we pray you will give the above your most sincere consideration.

WHEREAS we, the petitioners, will affix our signatures on the original petition which will follow.