

letters

Burton's comments in poor taste

May 23, 1977
712 10th Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the article and the remarks made by Commissioner of Public Safety, Richard Burton. These utterances on the part of a high ranking public official are scandalous with a tendency to provoke hostility and in some minds a tendency to germinate violence. I firmly believe that these baseless and unfounded remarks have no basis either in fact or in truth. The comments are devoid of any supporting reasons and can only tend to corroborate the belief that the author is a racist.

For a member of the Governor's Cabinet to publicize and disseminate that sort of misleading information without any supporting reasons is an act of reckless individual. I have discussed the matter with other Native people and the feeling is unanimous that a mere reprimand or censure would hardly suffice. There is but one solution, namely the removal of this individual from that important post, such would be a decisive step toward greater harmony.

The peaceful assertion of Native rights is apparently misinterpreted by Mr. Burton as "militant".

Respectably Submitted,
Carol C. Drake

cc: Tundra Times

Subsistence rights endangered

Box 1141
Nome, Alaska 99762

May 19, 1977

Dear Governor Hammond:

Villages started and exist because of dependency upon subsistence living and it is a way of life in rural Alaska. Subsistence rights are endangered because of new State laws and regulations, yet nothing is being done to replace subsistence living in rural Alaska.

What agencies have conducted surveys in rural Alaska to determine dependency upon Native foods? Who has done a survey of Nome families and people to see if their diet and livelihood depends upon Eskimo foods and subsistence rights, such as sea mammals, ducks, fishes, berries, seal oil, muktuk, ect.? No one has done this to my knowledge.

The population of Nome consists of approximately 65 per cent or more Natives. We know that the majority of their income is low and that unemployment is high. And that the cost of living in Nome is approximately 165 percent of Anchorage and 198 percent of Seattle. (also outside workers are imported into Nome seasonal basis.)

If our subsistence rights are endangered by new laws, what is the STATE doing to bring in or encourage other economic means to take the place of subsistence dependency? If the State takes away subsistence privileges from rural areas, it seems that the State welfare burden would increase . . . which means more of a burden for taxpayers and existing A-

laska businesses.

It would seem that the State would benefit by working closely with rural areas and rural organizations to encourage economic development and to find ways to eliminate unemployment in rural areas. To provide technical assistances and grants to IRA village councils, Native organizations and corporations and small businesses for the purposes of rural economic development for the benefit and betterment of everyone concerned.

Sincerely,
Perry T. Mendenhall

P.S. The airline strike probably encouraged "subsistence rights" in our area just as it probably encouraged higher prices for groceries and other goods. Thank you for your time and consideration.

cc: Tundra Times

AFN Youth Council

Box 173
Point Hope, Alaska 99766

Dear Editor,

The article "Messages from Mary Jane" on the May 4, 1977 paper interested me alot about AFN Youth Council. I remember readings in your

paper about AFN Youth Council some years back. And I lost track of what was going on.

Mary Jane has done quite a bit keeping the AFN Youth Council still active, even though she has worked without any kind of money. I'm proud to hear that an Alaskan Native really cares for us people.

Her article deeply touched me. I to am a concerned and a proud U.S. citizen. I'm proud of my ancestors who fought great battles. I'm proud of the Past and Present Native leaders who have struggled many hardships, whether they lost or won. But always I felt that they are proud to do their job regardless of right or wrong. Because they learned from their mistakes. They cared for you and I.

Mary Jane's article not only encourages us but supplies us with the confidence the ability to do a duty for brother and sister alike. Thank God for this land, for the leaders, for the politicians, counselors, nurses, preachers, laborers. Thank God for the parents who cared for us while we were young. I must be the luckiest human being who is alive. I thank God for it.

Our young Natives around this world especially Alaskans need to plan ahead. They need to follow our former leaders' footsteps. Yes, our leaders will be gone. Then its up to our young Natives. They

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More letters from Tundra Times readers . . .

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need the education. They need our support. There is only one way to keep going-to have faith my friend, the young army is coming. Pray for it. I want a decent and honest life. I want my Native culture and heritage to stand and keep going. The Native future is important.

Mary Jane, I wish there were more of you who cares. I wish I had donated. But I'll ask our father who created us to give us Natives, the guidance, the comfort, the strength, and the never ending friendship (love). My prayers is with everyone both Taniks and Inupiat alike.

Yes, people, our young Natives want to learn. We want Native leaders to help our heritage stand. We want to learn more. We need the support and help before we can do anything. I'm speaking for the AFN Youth Council, because I too care for my people.

Sincerely
Morris B. Oviok

What is the bottom line

House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

May 18, 1977

Dear Rep. Malone:

I read with great interest your comments of March 16 from "The Bottom Line." You are correct when you say that absentee interests have been a plague to Alaska in the past. However, the picture is beginning to change at a rapid pace.

The regional corporations created by ANCSA are aggressively swinging the businesses of the entire State of Alaska around. They are actively participating in hotels, salmon, canneries, fishing vessels, oil exploration and development, mining, construction, sea transportation, ect., etc.

As the regions develop they need economic incentive. They need tax breaks so that the people in Bush Alaska can move into the cash economy. They need a state government and leaders who can appreciate the need for subsistence and economic advancement simultaneously.

The regions are going to be active in oil exploration and development. They will become a major economic source in this State if they are allowed to. I would ask you to talk to the regional corporation leaders to find out what help they need to make sure the regional corporations succeed.

I ask you to think about the points I have raised. Since you have an abiding interest in our State and since you are in a position of leadership, you can do something to adress these issues.

Very sincerely,
Nels A. Anderson, Jr.
House of Representatives

cc: Tundra Times

Invitation to the Northern Games

Nothern Games Association
P.O. Box 1184
Inuvik, N.W.T.
Canada, XOE OTO

May 13, 1977

Dear Alaska Friends

The 1977 Western Arctic Northern Games will be held in Aklavik from August 5-8. This is a special invitation to all the Alaska people who are

interested in coming to our Northern Games. Your participation in this celebration has always added a special measure of love and unity.

This year we will set up a tent village again with cooking facilities but sleeping gear is not provided.

Please let us know if you will be able to come and take part. Once we find out how many of you are coming than we will make travel arrangements for you.

We would like to know the number of all people from Alaska.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Audrea VanDuffelen
for Northern Games
Inuvik, N.W.T.
Canada

Juvenile justice system is a nightmare

North Pole, Alaska
May 20, 1977

Dear Editor,

Juat suppose a young man burglarized your home, busted two windows, ramsacked your home, and his little brother tried to run you down three times in a pick-up and "mommie said" you must irritate my little boys to make them want to burglarize and drive recklessly.

Just suppose you took several youngsters swimming, hiking, flying, and they stole your three Speed Schwinn Bike, broke your windows, smashed two more bikes, slashed your wife's tires, and daily shouted obscence language, the "daddy" dumped several junk cars he had stripped onto your property, and then come onto your property drunk and threatened physical and aided and abeted teenagers in amob threatening physical violence.

Just suppose two young men vandalized two cars in your drive, denting the metal and smearing red dye all over them, and you found them with red hands and the tracks around the two cars measured identically with the tracks on the walls of the garage after \$1200 recent burglary.

Just suppose you had \$1,000 damage to two aircraft and you were told the names of the two boys who got off the school bus and walked thru your property near the planes.

Just suppose you had your garage window broken 15 times, caught a young man holding a torch under your car gas tank in the garage, and daily found the partying youngsters emptying beer bottles in your yard.

Just suppose the gang burglarized a neighbors home in 1974, and the only penalty given the four young men was \$50 fine and suspension and then the same gang slashed your wife's tires, and were given \$75 restitution and suspension and were free to throw rocks through your window and yell obscence words and litter the street in front of your home with debris.

Just suppose you get involved and you are paying your good tax money for State Troopers, juvenile intake, etc., but suppose your wife and kiddies meet my wife head on on the road someday after another partially slashed tire blows out and your children all go through the windshield.

Over the years I've pulled over a dozen broken bodies fromwrecked cars, with four borken limbs, one with throat cut and still screaming in the windshield, galss ground inot ones brain, one hanging upside down and drow-

ed in his own blood running over his mouth and nose. and I saw a little boy thrown from a ripped open car, and the cold December rain washed his still warm blood into the highway

ditch. The Mother couldn't help because she was dead too, ripped apart by steel and glass.

\$75 and suspension? What about the safety of your children, no safer than the partially

slashed tires of the oncoming car that meets them. Shall we "suspend" your children's safety? Think about it.

Hardy M. Smith