

Forest service clarification

To the Editor:

We read with considerable interest your June 9 article on the Chugach Natives, Inc., land settlement. The article sums up the settlement well and clearly expresses CNI's feelings about it.

There is, however, one misconception in the fifth paragraph on the front page that we would like to correct for your readers.

The \$12 million in cash was not an alternative to conveying any National Forest acreage to CNI. Actually, the settlement as accepted by CNI included more than 168,000 acres from the Chugach National Forest.

The offer, as tendered by the federal government, contained two options to enhance CNI's short term cash flow — these were in addition

to the 378,000 acres of land in the total settlement. The options were cutting rights to 65 million board feet of standing timber on the Chugach National Forest or \$12 million in cash. CNI opted to select the \$12 million.

Sincerely,
CLAY G. BEAL
Forest Supervisor
U.S. Dept. of
Agriculture

Candidate Mallot says vote

Ed. Note — Mr. Mallott is a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives seat held by Rep. Don Young.

TO THE PEOPLE:

We, the Alaska Native population, continue to suffer from the sting of an unequally applied social and economic justice system, are forced to undergo an educational system which understands us little more than we understand it, and now are faced with a future of starvation because our lifestyle of subsistence living is facing execution.

Our cultures and heritages are now confronted with extinction as a result, and we do nothing or little to create a halt to this possibility.

Whenever confronted with the Bear or Wolf which endangers our lives, we kill it and are comfortable with the feeling that we have done something necessary to conserve our lives, yet we do nothing to preserve our lifestyle which is facing the challenge of changing times and peoples.

Throughout the years of history we have found the ways of survival and have grown with that knowledge. Today we do not have to search for the avenue of survival to withstand cultural invasion and slaughter of heritages because we have been provided with the instrument of survival, the right to vote which remains dormant or not skillfully

used, almost the same as fishing without a net or line, or hunting with an empty rifle.

When we go hunting or fishing absent proper equipment we get nothing except hunger. When we let an election pass without registering to vote and selecting a candidate to vote for, we get the same results, nothing.

When hunting we carefully select game that will provide food for our people, and we should just as carefully select our political candidates for the same purpose.

Sealaska Corporation is attempting to encourage its shareholders to become registered and active voters and other regional corporations could be making the same move with a cause.

The cause is our continued preservation of culture, heritage and lifestyle, which could and should be supported by the Tundra Times with the weekly publication of a Peoples Political Forum page capable of transmitting our complaints to state Legislatures and senators.

Nothing can be more politically powerful than the combined forces of the people and the press seeking equality in the application of social and economic affairs with proper state government administration.

To do more than dream of what should be is to register

to vote, carefully select the candidate for whom we are to vote for, and to maintain a guard against misdirection of our concerns by keeping our press alerted about our thoughts and feelings of directions taken by our elected officials.

So far we have become so absent-minded in exercising our right to vote that when a petition is being circulated to place an issue on the voting ballot, Alaska Natives are not asked to sign it because others know there are few Alaska Native voters.

We cry about an absence of Native political leaders, which is true to the extent a non-Native candidate for Governor must openly encourage qualified Natives, male or female, to seek election as Lieutenant Governor.

The Alaska Native registered voter is a rare sight at the election polls and the name of an Alaska Native candidate on the ballot is even more rare. Had we given up on the battle for the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act as easy as we have given up our right to vote, we would already have less than nothing. Maybe we should do something, hua?

Ronald C. Mallott
Anchorage