

PILOT CLAIMS DISCRIMINATION

Claims His Pleas for Law Enforcement Fell on Deaf Ears

A 39-year-old Aleut pilot, William Gregorioff, of Illiama, has charged in a letter to Governor Walter J. Hickel that he has spent all his life preparing himself for an air taxi business only to have that business snuffed out by discrimination.

And he claims that the discriminators have been state and federal agencies who have "bypassed" his flying service and instead used a non-certificated Caucasian pilot.

Gregorioff outlines his trials and tribulations in a 4-page letter to the Governor in which he charges that when

he began to complain to the appropriate agencies of lack of law enforcement that his home and airplane was "bombed" with snow and rocks from a snowblower until he had to move his base of operation.

Appended to his letter are a list of 15 licenses and certificates which Gregorioff says the Government required him to obtain before he could operate his business.

Then he said that government agencies including the police, charged with enforcement, patronized an air service that did not have the proper certificates. This

Pilot Claims Discrimination . . .

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was done he said long after he had complained to agencies requiring that action should be taken.

"I have complied with every regulation of which I have knowledge. I see all around me prejudice, bigotry and downright piracy.

"I was told that these papers gave me rights. The white man has not protected these rights for me. My business is harrassed on all sides; Federal and State Agencies are suppressing my enterprise."

"Federal and state agents ignore or refuse to recognize my qualifications, or honor the Federal and State certificates held by me.

"Federal and state agents knowingly still support non-certificated and non-complying 'operators,' who possess neither Air Taxi Certificates

nor Alaska Small Business Anchorage as the operations base.

Gregorioff was born and reared in Afognak. His father was Aleut mixed with Russian and his mother was Aleut mixed with Norwegian. After completing high school, he obtained pilot and registered guide license and, through dilligent work, set himself up for business.

"I was told that education, laws and government would bring to my people a new era of prosperity and the possibility of personal fulfillment that could never have been realized in the depraved culture which was mine by birth," Gregorioff wrote the Governor.

"The very education the white man gave me enabled me to see the injustices my fellow man was subject to."

Gregorioff has officially complained about the activities of William B. Smith, who has been doing business as Moore's Flying Service of Anchorage. Bill Burns, of the State Air Commerce Division, says Smith was sent a "cease and desist" order on January 26.

Later, Burns said that Smith had applied for an air taxi license with Non Dalton as a base of operations. On March 18, however, Smith withdrew the application and filed for a license with

Gregorioff's chief complaint boils down to this: for months he badgered appropriate state and federal agencies to enforce existing law and that there was little response—that his pleas fell on deaf ears.

The acting director of the FAA in Anchorage told Tundra Times yesterday that that agency was conducting an investigation of charges by Gregorioff of alleged FAA infractions but he said that no information could be released until a final determination had been made.

Allan Adasiak, of Governor Walter Hickel's office, acknowledged that the letter had been received and allegations therein were being investigated.

"Naturally, if there is any wrongdoing, we intend to correct it," Adasiak said.

Adasiak said he understood the air taxi service certificate of Moore's Flying Service was being withdrawn. Bill Moore, owner, has been flying in Vietnam for the past nine months.

The agencies which Gregorioff says has used the uncertificated carrier in competition with him are: State Department of Education, State Police, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Native Health Service and VISTA.

State Senator Jay Hammond, is very interested in Gregorioff's case as well as state employee, Walter Kubley.

The Cook Inlet Native Association of Anchorage has endorsed Gregorioff's appeal for an investigation and corrective action.

Referring to his many licenses and certificates, Gregorioff says, "I am no more than a registered animal...a genuine paper tiger with papers to burn, yet not receiving a fraction of the respect or consideration given a pedigree. I alone have to comply. The regulations are for me and I have fulfilled each and every one. Now the white man was grasping for yet another chance to send me seeking permission or to make me subject myself to further harrassment."