

# Mrs. Fishback Says Letter Not Criticism

Washington Star Route  
Nevada City, Calif.  
March 28, 1966

Tundra Times  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Sirs:

I wish you to know that the article printed by you on Friday, March 25, was a personal communication to Mr. Hunt, in the nature of an inquiry rather than a criticism, and no permission was given Mr. Hunt or anyone else to publish the letter I wrote him. I, on the other hand, asked his permission to print portions of his very sensible and interesting answer to me (and I have not received it from this great gentleman, either.) I am surprised that you, as editors of a periodical publication, did not inquire whether or not you had any right to use what I wrote.

I do not profess to be an authority on native life and was seeking only to discover some facts about this charity to which many people I know have been donating money that might well be spent on the preservation of human life, if the things are true which many Alaskans—both native and white—have told me. I resent highly being made the object of distrust and dislike by a huge number of people I do not know, even if I'll never come in contact with any of them.

I am certainly glad I didn't give Mr. Hunt the names of those persons who had discussed the "Help the Huskies" plan with us. At least they have been saved the embarrassment of having their personal views broadcast publicly when they least expected it.

I expect you to print this letter in its entirety. Please send me the copy of the Tundra Times in which it appears. You have thrown me into the midst of a controversy in which I want no part. Obviously I don't know enough about it to even begin to participate.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Lee Fishback

(Editor's Note: "If the enclosed correspondence is of interest to you, you are welcome to use it." Thus wrote Owen B. Hunt, president of the American Anti-Vivisection Society and publisher of the A-V magazine, to the editor of this newspaper regarding the letter sent to him by Mrs. Lee Fishback, editor of Team and Trail, and his answering rebuttal to her. Mrs. Fishback's letter was printed in the March 25 issue of Tundra Times along with quotes from Hunt's letter to her.

In the above letter to the Times, Mrs. Fishback said that her letter to Owen Hunt was "... in the nature of an inquiry rather than a criticism ...". We will leave this to the judgment of our readers. We of the Times failed to see that it was not a criticism of our Native people.

Tundra Times might have considered publishing Mrs. Fishback's letter even without Mr. Hunt's correspondence releasing the material to us. Mrs. Fishback, as an editor herself, should have given her "letter of inquiry" a little more thought before sending it to Mr. Hunt, a publisher. She also did not give any instructions that her letter not be published.)