

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire



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Member of the American Indian Press Association

Other Voices— EDUCATING THE EDUCATORS?

One question now facing many Alaska Native parents is that of who will control the education of their children in programs funded by the federal government.

The Alaska Federation of Natives Director for Human Resources, Gordon Jackson, recently said local control is his major concern but that it should be directed from a centralized organization such as AFN until local communities are able to form their own committees. AFN presently has a statewide Johnson-O'Malley Review Committee with representatives appointed by the regions.

On the other hand, Ralph Elaska, who recently resigned as director for the JOM statewide contract for supplementary Native educational funds administered this year by AFN, has said he thinks it should be administered from the regional level.

But with all the flap and flurry over who will control next year's JOM funds throughout the state, little has been heard from the locally affected Alaska Native parents themselves.

The revised JOM regulations which took effect Sept. 20, 1974, state that "all Indian education committees shall be nominated, selected and served by procedures determined by the Indian community affected. Each Indian education committee... may at its option; participate in negotiations concerning all contracts under this part."

Morris Thompson, commissioner for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in a news release of Aug. 26, 1974, said: "Local education committees determine the needs and the program."

The question is now a matter of who will decide what "local control" means. Does it mean the BIA will determine who administers the programs on either a statewide, regional or village-by-village basis? Or will BIA call for input from the local communities affected?

Obviously BIA is not staffed to contract individually with each community. However, the decision of who will hold the contract from BIA; whether it is AFN, the regions, or local school districts, should be a decision made by local Native communities. In order for that to happen, local communities must begin to take the initiative for assuming compliance with this law. Some spokesman would say most local communities in the state aren't ready for that step yet.

One example which seems to run contrary to such a point of view is the recently established local control of Title IV, Indian Education Act funds. Within the last year the local parent committee of the Anchorage Borough School District, for example, determined local Native education needs and set up programs for an estimated \$300,000 worth of those funds. Another example of local communities participating in determining education needs of their children was the approximately 130 parent advisory committees of rural schools under the Alaska State Operated School System which received over \$800,000 for their program this year. Together those programs provide educational services for over 7,000 Alaska Native students representing over one-third of all Native students k-12 in the state.

It's indeed time to hear from Native parents. Will the real spokesman for Native education in Alaska now stand up and be heard?

— D.L.

Letters from Here and There

Note of Thanks For Editorial

November 18, 1974

Dear Howard,

I want to thank you for your editorial in the Nov. 13 edition of the Tundra Times. It expressed so beautifully and painfully what many of us who supported Willie felt in our hearts but could not find the words.

Thank You,
Carol Drake
Box 156
Nome, Alaska 99762

'I Worked Hard For Willie'

Box 234
Dillingman, Alaska
November 26, 1974

Dear Howard:

I join Agnes Griffith as she dares to hope for what we thought was the "Impossible Dream." The spirit of the Native people is to push forward without ever giving up. We must keep hope alive in our hearts.

I join Agnes Griffith as I proudly state that I worked hard for Willie. Not because he is a Native, but because he is a man capable of doing the job for all Alaskans. Because he is truly qualified and he happens to be a Native.

My heart was saddened as I followed the campaign from Bristol Bay. I could not believe that the people of Alaska could swallow a racist theme against Willie, hook, line, and sinker.

Although my heart is sad, I rejoice in the good fight all of Willie's supporters gave to the opposition. We may have lost this election, but there will be others. We can be thankful that we won people like Agnes Griffith who are already gearing up for another battle.

We have also won the Stanton O. Katchatags who refuse to give in and already lay out plans for us to follow. Maybe by the time we get reorganized the rest of Alaska will have grown up and we can present Alaska's finest again. The next time, let us hope that all of Alaska will look at the man and not his color.

Hang in there, Willie. We still love you.

Very truly yours,
Nels A. Anderson, Jr.

Would Have Done Extremely Well

Box 206
Tok, Alaska 99780
Nov. 20, 1974

Howard Rock, Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rock:

I read with interest and sadness the editorial in Tundra Times for Nov. 13 on "Don Young's "racially tinged campaign calculated to cut down a minority candidate."

Senator Hensley is in my opinion one of the most capable men in Alaskan public life. Intelligent, trained, educated, and a truly unique personality. A good legislator and a good administrator.

When the Northwest District which sent him to Juneau did so they were well rewarded. He worked hard for a settlement of the Native Land Claims (returning a part of what was once theirs to the Native people). He would not be representing a rural district to do otherwise. And he was very successful.

If all we Alaskans had sent him to Washington to represent us he would have done just that — and extremely well. How well I hope to live to find out.

I would like to point out that if Don Young had been a Democrat and conducted that kind of campaign against Senator Hensley in a primary, every active Democrat in the state would have zeroed in on him like a hornet.

No Democrat would survive politically by using such methods. No Democrat I know of would want to. (in Alaska).

Yours truly,
Mellie Terwilliger, Ch.
Alaska State Democratic Party

Hard to Drive Nails at 50 Below Zero

Cold Foot, Alaska
Nov. 26, 1974

Mr. Howard Rock
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Friend the Tundra Times
Editor:

Well Doctor I'm not going home for Christmas. Ever since the State took over the school from the Sisters the Catholic School, I had a Blue Christmas at Nulato. The teachers now for the State, they have the programs and entertainment 2 or 3 days before Christmas, and they take off and have no school till after New Years.

When the Sisters was teaching school, they had no holiday. The program was on Christmas day, that's the day Jesus Christ was born, and Santa Claus came to the villages the same day. Not two or three days before. I don't remember when the Sisters have or had holidays. They had to pack in wood and water every day. I know because I used to help them for Cracker Jack, etc.

Well it was 48 below yesterday here. I didn't think I was going to drive nails at 48 below. I use to trap and live in a tent with my boys, and sometimes alone and think nothing of it at 50 or 55, but driving nails is something else. But I guess we have to put in the pipeline as soon as possible so the oil will start to flow that much sooner. That's the way it looks here.

I'm suppose to go in December 15 and come back here January 15. One month vacation. They're about 25 carpenters here, and no one is quitting yet. All working out doors too. Its 51 below this morning, and I'm going to take a space heater to work. We have a lot of them. that I didn't have on the trap.

(Continued on Page 11)

Editorial Comment— The Banquet People Are Talking About

In retrospect, the latest annual banquet of the Tundra Times is recalled with a most pleasant feeling because quite a number of people have evaluated it as the "Most friendly" event of the year. It was not only friendly, it was the largest social event of any year in the history of Alaska. That is quite a feather in the hat of the newspaper's board of directors, the staff of the Tundra Times and many people who worked so hard to make it a sparkling spectacle that it was.

And people . . . There were so many of them that many had to be turned away because the cavernous banquet room was filled to capacity. And this with more than one important get-togethers in the City of Anchorage on the very same evening.

During the series of banquets Tundra Times has had for several years in the past, we have always tried to make the event a light-hearted one and we have succeeded well along this line of presentation. What event can fail with such talented masters of ceremonies in the persons of Alfred Grant (Athabaskan), James Thomas (Tlingit), Roger Lang (Tlingit) and some others? These men are not only comical but they are skillful in keeping large audiences amused. They jell the crowd into participating in a fun evening.

And our headliner speakers and performers . . . We have had such people as the former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall; Jack Anderson of the Washington Merry-Go-Round fame; Vincent Price, screen actor; Jeane Dixon, the famous seeress; Buffy Sainte-Marie and others. Such personalities cannot help but draw capacity audiences. And, of course, our Alaska governors have always attended and our congressional delegations as well and many Native leaders and other dignitaries. Each in his own way has impressed the large banquet audiences. What color they can provide to the occasion. What contributions they have made to the struggling newspaper — the Tundra Times.

We extend our sincerest gratitude to them and to all the people who have attended the banquets through the years.