

Letters to the Tundra Times

Pioneer Home

May 15, 1980

Dear Editor:

Dr. Mike Beirne has done a great injustice to the citizens of Alaska, particularly the Pioneers, in his statement that it costs \$35,000 a year to keep a resident in a Pioneer Home. This is implied in House Bill 635 in the 1980 Legislature.

I have checked my figures with the State records in Juneau. Since I am a retired State Employee, and formerly worked in the Division of Finance, Department of Administration, I knew where to research the correct figures:

Overall expenditures of FY 79, including administration costs and ASHA payments, amounted to \$10,227,500. Income from residents for subsistence income, meal tickets, drugs and building rental amounted to \$1,309,212, for a net cost to the State of \$8,918,288.

Based on the average occupancy of 438 residents in all the homes, the cost per resident per day comes to \$55.78, \$20,360 per resident per year.

As you can see, this is a far cry from the cost of \$35,000 per year implied by Representative Beirne in his House Bill 635.

I do not know where Dr. Beirne got his information, but these are the actual costs from the most recent year completed.

I am a resident of the Anchorage Pioneer Home, and I feel I am very fortunate to be able to

live here. It is a wonderful "family". The building is clean and well kept up. The Administration and Staff are capable, caring people. When we are able to secure the land from Dr. Beirne for the new nursing wing, it will more adequately serve the needs.

Sincerely,

Virginia Blanchard
923 West 11th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Public Relations

U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Editor:

We would like your help. The Environmental Protection Agency is undertaking an important Agency-wide reform in order to strengthen our relationship with the public. We have just finished drafting a Public Participation Policy, and we need your reactions to it, as well as suggestions on changes and additions.

Among other provisions, the policy requires that the Agency identify people who are affected by an upcoming decisions; that the public be properly informed of the issues on which the Agency seeks comment; that the A-

gency engage in dialogue with citizens on relevant issues; and that the Agency communicate with the public to explain how citizen input was considered in Agency decision-making.

The best way to begin this dialogue with citizens is through the development of the policy itself. The policy will benefit greatly from your views and suggestions.

There are several ways that people in Region 10 can participate in the policy's development. You can attend one of our meetings being held at 7:30 p.m. at the following locations:

Seattle, June 23, 1980, 12th Floor Conference Room, Park Place Building, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101

Anchorage, June 24, 1980, Downtown Recreation Center, 607 West 6th Avenue, Room 114, Anchorage, Alaska.

Portland, June 25, 1980, Portland City Council Chambers, 1220 S.W. 5th Avenue, City Hall, Portland, OR 97201.

Boise, June 26, 1980, Bonneville Room, Boise City Hall, 3rd Floor, Boise, Idaho.

If you can't make it to any of the meetings, you can comment in writing or by phone to the Office of External Affairs, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 Office, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101.

Sincerely,
Sharon Francis
Special Assistant to the
Administrator for Public
Participation