

Transfer promises are just words

To the Editor,

I am writing on behalf of several Alaskan Native prisoners, presently housed under contractual agreement at Lompoc Federal Penitentiary, who are within two years of a release date.

As in the past, State officials are inclined to ignore or claim some form of ignorance to abide by the Class Action Settlement Agreement, *Cleary vs. Beirne*. The agreement stipulates that any state prisoner, under contractual agreement outside of the sentencing state, who are within two years of a release date provided by either the parole board and/or classification committee will be returned to state facilities.

Thus far, the policy of trans-

ferring state prisoners back to state facilities has been on an exchange basis. At present, Lompoc Penitentiary is experiencing overcrowding conditions. Since Lompoc is a maximum security penitentiary, 70% of the population has an average sentence of fifteen years or more. The capacity of the facility is 1,083; now the population is above 1,150. In addition, one of the living units is shut down for modification, which, the institution double bunks disciplinary segregation, administrative detention, D-unit (Alcohol Program Unit), E-unit (Drug Abuse and Psychological Unit), and M-unit (Holdover-Transfer Unit).

The problem of contacting state officials to seek adminis-

trative relief is a time consuming project and, most often, difficult. As an unwritten policy, when an inmate seeks administrative relief, he becomes subject to special segregation for investigative purposes of alleged infractions and found guilty. As the case may be, a person with a parole date or mandatory release date is more accessible to be manipulated. State prisoners lack the funds to certify mail and stamps for legal mail. The promise of stamps, transfer, and other conditions of the settlement agreement is just that, a promise.

Respectfully,

Michael Shewfelt
Lompoc, Ca.

Congratulations to Akiachak

To the Editor,

I would like to congratulate and compliment the Village of Akiachak on its recent move to abandon the City Council government, and recognize the tribal government as its sole voice of the community.

I urge all Alaska Native villages to follow in the same suit and manner, in achieving tribal and IRA status.

For the sole purpose of protecting the Native Lands from

alienation after 1991, since Land is at the top of the list when it comes to Native concerns and Native affairs. I, myself, also put Land above anything else when it comes down to talking Native politics. That's what a nation builds itself on, and that's where our culture, our language, our heritage comes from.

I been saying it, all along and I'll keep on saying it; you can

do anything you want, but don't sell, give, or trade our land away.

It may be a long and tough fight, but I urge all Native villages in Alaska to fight for tribal sovereignty, for our ancestors, ourselves, and the future generations to come. Thank you and continue the good work.

Grover G. Riley
Minto

More on NCAI election

To the Editor:

Concerning the National Congress of American Indians elections in Green Bay, Wis. October, 1983:

I must congratulate Joe De La Cruz for some astute political maneuvering. Joe's experience enabled him to pull the majority support of the

first vice-presidential candidates, along with what he could muster himself.

The mark of a successful politician is convincing others that you support their goals.

Thank you,

Carl Waln
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
President