

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

# Tundra Times



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## Other Voices—

### A Shocking Speech

(Through the courtesy of ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS)

The hard-hitting anti-environment speech delivered by former Look Magazine publisher Thomas R. Shepherd at the annual Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Banquet last Friday night turned out to be a watershed affair.

Far from bringing Alaskans to their feet with a roar of approval, Mr. Shepherd's biting remarks about "a few herd of caribou or a family of polar bears," his disdain for the permafrost, and his statement that he is "entirely on the side of production and consumption and the more profligate and conspicuous it is the better I like it . . ." brought embarrassment and tense silence.

It may be that the Chamber audience surprised itself by its own negative reaction. In any case, after the conclusion of the speech, Chamber board members, politicians and many others rushed to express their disapproval.

Difficult and uncomfortable as the experience must have been for Mr. Shepherd, as well as for his listeners, it served a purpose, for it was an opportunity for Alaskans to go on record that this kind of travesty against permafrost, caribou, fish, and clean air and water is NOT what Alaskans want to hear.

Augie Reetz, Chamber president, said of the speech, "I thought the speech was horrible." Walter J. Hickel, whose Captain Cook Hotel ballroom was being inaugurated at the affair, looked during the speech as if he wished a trapdoor beneath his podium seat would miraculously open to remove him from the scene. Said Mr. Hickel afterwards: "He underestimated the care and concern that Alaskans have for their country." And Chamber Board member Robert Hartig said he didn't like it at all. Trading off polar bears for pipelines . . . That's not the way we do things."

We applaud the Chamber reaction to this unfortunate speech while we deplore its choice of a speaker.

Perhaps those motorists that persist in flaunting "Sierra Go Home" bumper stickers might take note. They might be run right out of Alaska one of these days! And it would be about time.

## In Recognition of Prayer Vigil Week

Never before have the prayers of our people been more urgently needed. The world needs prayer. Let us pray that God's love and justice shall govern all of our relations between individuals, communities and countries.

The American Mothers Committee, Inc., is promoting a Prayer Vigil to extend from October 7, 1973, to June, 1974. Each week two states have been designated to concentrate on praying for the needs of our country and all people around the world. Alaska and North Dakota have the honor of being chosen to launch this program, which is to begin Sunday, October 7, and extend through Saturday, October 13, 1973.

"Prayer is Power" is the theme for the Vigil. Our Nation was founded on prayer and prayer has been its guiding light from the days of the pilgrims, the writing of the Constitution, and through all its trials and struggles.

Therefore, I, William A. Egan, Governor of Alaska, designate the week of October 7-13, 1973, as

### PRAYER VIGIL WEEK

in Alaska. With the American Mothers Committee the citizens of Alaska are encouraged to pray for the current social problems in our land, especially among the youth. Let us pray that strength and courage may abound to all who work for a world of reason and understanding. Pray that the good that lies in every man's heart may be manifested.

Pray that men will come to see more clearly not that which divides them, but that which unites them. Pray that each hour may

(Continued on page 4)

## Letters from Here and There

### Wildlife In Danger

1101 West 23rd Ave.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Oct. 4, 1973

Dear Mr. Rock:

On my way to work I pick up the Tundra Times. Enjoy reading about friends here and there. I'd like to say we all from Bettles and Allakaket area agree with J. Huntington's concern about our wildlife in danger.

It is time to think before it's too late. Many headhunters are flown up into the Brooks Range. They come back with the heads of moose and sheep and bear hides. I don't see the meat from the killing.

If they have finally killed off our wildlife can a cattle ranch or chicken farm survive in 80 below zero weather? Can we afford it? Wildlife is our only way to save yours and my life during our long, long cold winters. At home the meat is our food and the hides are our warm clothing.

I would like to see the Brooks Range alive not dead. It's beautiful now. The head hunters are still going there with that look in their eyes.

Would a national park be the answer to save the animals? We have to do something now.

Sincerely,  
Millicent Evans Gray  
(Wilfred Evans daughter)

### Alaskans in Lower 48

P.O. Box 309  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Oct. 2, 1973

Dear Mr. Rock:

I am writing on behalf of Mrs. Sandi Connelly wrote regarding the Land Claims Bill, whereas Alaskans living in the Lower 48 are being denied everything we here in Alaska are entitled to.

I'd like first of all to explain there are twelve (12) corporations under the Settlement Act, the 13th Corporation hasn't been formed as of yet. So the Alaskans living below are denied all privileges under the Act until the 13th Corporation is formed, unless they are enrolled in this region.

In 1972, \$5.8 million advances to the 12 regional corporations were authorized under the Alaska Native Settlement Act by Secretary of Interior Rogers C.B. Morton. So 10 corporations received up to \$500,000 and two corporations received less than \$500,000.

This money is used for operation of each corporation so I would guess that there is a loan available for needy Natives of Alaska whether they are here in the state of Lower 48 they should be eligible for all benefits under the Settlement Act, and a loan would be under the Act.

Since there isn't any payments or dividends from the Settlement Act until Dec. 18, 1973,



there should be a loan program available.

The Native Land Claims Settlement Act has opened doors, and will continue to open others, so keep in contact with your region corporation. If your region doesn't have a newsletter recommend to them: it is needed, so that all Alaskans can be kept informed what their region is doing.

Since there are many Alaskans living from Florida to Hawaii and in foreign countries let us

not let them feel unwanted, besides the Alaska Native Land Settlement Act is an example for all Indians of North America who are still fighting for their land in courts across the nation and Canada.

Let us not separate, but join together and make Alaska a state where Alaskans will be proud of saying I am an Alaskan, don't forget what is planned for today will be looked at by the new generation.

Proud to be an Alaskan.  
Robert Chervasen

## Minominee Legislation Pressing

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy today told the Senate Indian Affairs Subcommittee that it was "imperative that the process of Minominee restoration become the pressing issue for every legislator this year."

At this morning's hearings, Kennedy, citing his personal experiences with the Minominee Tribe, said that they were some of the most energetic and vigorous Indian people he had encountered, but warned that "whether the breath of life will be snuffed from the Tribe in another five years will depend on what Congress does immediately."

He said that Congress has participated too often in the past efforts of our government to "solve the Indian problem by eliminating Indian reservations and federal trust relationships with tribes."

Kennedy suggested that Minominee restoration was a way for Congress to reverse the historic pattern of broken promises and broken treaties, and called for immediate action to secure new hope of prosperity, freedom and security for the Minominee Tribe.

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## THE ALASKAN AIRLINE WITH THE WORLDWIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska International Air grew up in Alaska. But even though we've now reached the point where our Hercules Airfreighters regularly visit virtually all points of the globe, Alaska's still our home. It always will be.



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