

T-H Washington Chap. Answers Our Editorial

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Tundra Times Editor
Mr. Howard Rock
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Dear Howard,

I am pleased to notice in the March 21st issue of T.T. that you finally made some sort of comment on the proposed formation of a 13th regional corporation. However there are a few points that I would like to comment on purely in the interest of bearing out both points of view i.e., pro's and con's.

I refer to your editorial and the accompanying letter from the Oregon group A.N.A.O. I am familiar with their organization, in fact had consulted with them during their formative stages and found them to be very aggressive in their achievements.

I do not agree, as you imply that we in the lower "foreign states" (a cynical reference to the 13th) have alienated ourselves from the LAND, our families and cultural ties. We strongly believe in our heritage just as so many other off reservation and DE-LANDED Indians do (approximately 350,000 of them) that have been shuffled about over the decades by relocation programs, service separations, economic considerations, health, education and welfare reasons, which in most cases we wound up stranded in alien territory where travel expense alone was a major item to contemplate. We won't even go into considering job availability, housing, schooling for our youngsters, medical and hospitalization for those of us who wanted to return to and fight for our LAND. Would it not amount to alienation if those of us with families subjected our young ones to the LAND when in many cases these young ones have not even set foot on the land much less even heard of it? Not only that, but pray tell, where do the elders fit in the scheme of things, those who fought before us for the LAND and had to leave in spite of their convictions and continue the good fight outside.

Please do not forget, nor let our brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers and cousins forget that the Washington Chapter of the Alaska Federation of Natives was effective on many fronts during the fight and in the final outcome of the Settlement Act. As you stated "unity of the Native People for the first time in their history . . ." also included those of us categorized as "geographically and spiritually disassociated from the LAND".

I speak of course for myself and for many individuals with whom I have had the pleasure of cooperating with to push for a "fair and equitable settlement". Does this not include fair and equitable for those that choose, and for those that are chosen for in the matter of a 13th? In public mass meeting I personally asked a SEALASKA delegation that was down here in force seeking enrollees for the 12 regions if this controversial issue (13th) could be resolved by each of the 12 regions who were concerned for their outside counterparts in that satellite corporations be set up to take care of the social needs of urban people as those needs differ from the needs of bush Alaska . . . Not only down here, but also in urban areas of the LAND. The answer was a long chauvinistic treatise and bureaucratic practice of speaking in circles, summarily no answer at all except to say that "based on other well known corporations such as General Motors, Ford, G.E. etc . . ." sometimes have satellite corps and voting stockholders to vote for and look after the interests of those in their particular areas."

Truthfully now, not only how long would it take, but how long for as many members needed would it take to accomplish the task of representing their constituents in a fair and equitable manner? How long would it be before elected non-resident board members of a given corporation would be heard on that board? How many non-resident members would it take to sway a decision in favor of the outside stockholders? Even if the 12 regions made a commitment to serve the needs of these "spiritually disassociated brothers and sisters" to what lengths would the

Lost VISTA Volunteer And an Old Eskimo Strange Encounter Leads Into Extensive Analysis of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

Land's End Village
State of Alaska
April 10, 1973

Native Roots. It made me sad to do this because it took me back to the times when we were younger and we saw so many of our friends and relatives dying during the time of Sickness.

Dear Howard,

The mail plane finally got through last week so I am able to get out another letter to you about the problems I am having with the Secretary's plan, AN ACT, about us Alaska Natives. With the help of my friend Wally Morton, the ex-VISTA volunteer, I was able to fill out the Native Enrollment Form in time, so I guess that qualifies me as a Native of Alaska. One of the things that I had to do was fill out a Family Tree which is probably so the Secretary can see if it really has

Wally is too young to remember those times when the outsiders brought their sickness and diseases to our villages. Though it makes me sad it also makes me remember how the survivors opened their hearts and wanted to adopt the children who were left without parents. We all knew our responsibility to each other in those times. I wonder how this will appear in the family trees that the Secretary is collecting? Can he build a Native Forest out of these paper trees which are taken to represent our lives?

As Wally was helping me, I began to realize that many of my relatives would not be able to fill out these Native Enrollment Forms without help. It is very difficult to understand even if you speak some English. I see my friend Wally complaining that he needs a Legalese Dictionary to translate the Bureaucratic English in AN ACT which explains all the rules and reasons for these forms. Just imagine the problems of a poor old man like myself and you will see why I worry about those who did not have help before the deadline. Did they become Lost Natives after March 30, 1973 as far as AN ACT is concerned?

I guess two years is a long time to some people but out here in the villages it is a short time in a way of life that has been going on for as long as anyone knows. Wally says that the Secretary refused to extend the enrollment deadline for even 30 days. Did he really think that the month of April was so important to his plans when he made this plan two years ago?

Finally there is one more thing that has been bothering me about Enrollment under AN ACT. What is wrong with all our children and grandchildren who are being born since AN ACT was passed? Are babies born after December 18, 1971 to Natives somehow less Native than those born before this date? On paper they are not

respective boards of directors extend themselves when there are so many issues on and of the LAND to consider, first of course.

Since the dollar economy seems to be issue blamed for much of the dissension, lets take the value of 100 shares of stock for instance !!! I will not use the source of information that I have except to say that it came from a computer. Neither will I vouch for it's validity, but it was computed that the aforementioned shares would be worth \$60 more or less, per year for a good many years or until the time came when wise investments would increase those dividends. Surely, it would be decades or even generations to come before those dividends would increase enough to put any beneficiary or Native stockholder on a self determining basis to say the least . . . So why not a 13th? or a reasonable facimile provided by each of the 12 regions. Not even this solution would take care of the elderly and/or the many other social service issues that the LAND oriented people take so much for granted on behalf of the "spiritually disassociated" living in a land flowing with mild and honey.

Sarcastic I may sound, but it seems to me that a truly concerned society of Natives would weigh all the pro's and con's of the issue and try to arrive at some sensible solution before our hard earned unity crumbles and once again we become a house divided among'st itself when the \$ sign is the real culprit. Yes, the Fed's knew what they were doing when the guide lines were set down, "divide and conquer."

Yes Howard, the issues are many . . . the pro's and con's are many . . . the issues at hand are vague and unclear plus being to numerous to mention except in a series. Time is of the essence, So let us weigh all avenues of solutions honestly and truthfully, dedicated to the advancement of our indigene in a people oriented manner. After all, isn't that what elected leaders are supposed to be doing in the interest of their membership?

Although I am Public Relations Officer for the afore-mentioned organizations, I would prefer that they be referred to in context if this statement is used in the Tundra Times. I will also enclose annual election results of A.F.N. and T&H for publications. I remain

Sincerely Yours

Jay B. Mallot

(Continued on page 8)

Lost VISTA and Old Eskimo . . .

(Continued from page 2)

Natives as far as AN ACT is concerned. As a family ends when there are no more children to carry on, what happens to a people when they do not claim their descendants? Are we setting brother against brother according to their birth dates?

I am sorry, Howard, for carrying on about these problems because as Wally says - many lawyers must have spent much time and money to settle these questions. But even though this old man may be ignorant he knows who he is without seeing the papers on the Secretary's desk and he knows who his people are and how to act towards them. Even though Wally says this is all too late, I am comforted by the fact that I am still learning new things every day. It is possible to sleep through the morning but still wake up for the new day.

Your friend,
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