

Letters from Here and There

C.R. Lewis Declines to Answer Queries

Oct. 17, 1974

Dear Editor:

Common Cause, the non-partisan nationwide citizens' lobby, has posed 18 questions to Alaska's four U.S. Senate and House candidates. Three of them answered; one, State Senator C.R. Lewis declined to do so.

The questions concerned the national reforms Common Cause is espousing: congressional campaign financing, conflicts of interest, secrecy in government, taking politics out of the Justice Department, filibustering and congressional committee seniority systems. All are needed reforms springing from the misuses and manipulations that are so damaging to our democratic processes.

Candidates Hensley, Young and Gravel responded to the questionnaire and provided Common Cause and its several hundred Alaska members with unequivocal answers. Not so C.R. Lewis. He responded by simply saying, "United States Senators are required to vote for specifically written bills with all technical details outlined carefully . . ." And that, "Until I can see the specifics of a proposal, to make a prior commitment on broad policies is unfair to the Alaskan people."

Consider the following observations. First, Mr. Lewis contradicts himself. Although referring to answer Common Cause's questions, he has been answering similar general questions posed to both him and his opponent by a number of Alaskan newspapers.

Secondly, it seems that Mr. Lewis is unacquainted with the nature of much of the legislation enacted by Congress. Often, U.S. Senators do not vote on "specifically written bills with all technical details outlined carefully . . ." Mr. Lewis should know that much federal legislation is general, only stating policy while technical details are actually contained in subsequent regulations that have been established by the President and executive agencies under authorizing legislation.

And finally, in dodging Common Cause's questions, candidate C.R. Lewis has left us with no indication as to how he will act, if elected, to support the reforms so badly needed in the American political system.

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Damaging Measures in Sea Mammal Act

Oct. 23, 1974

Dear Mr. Rock:

Recently, there has been a number of editorials pertaining to the Sea Mammal Act and the damaging measures that the Federal government is trying to place on Native artists in attempting to limit the artist in the Arctic regions to what he has already developed. If this is the result caused by the Secretary of the Interior, the future outlook becomes clearer on this

matter when you look into the Secretary of Interior's impact letter on page 16, a quote:

"Within the Framework of Federal and State Laws, subsistence would be a recognized use of the fish, wildlife and plant resources in the refuges and the ranges. Refuge, designation of proposed lands would not change laws applicable to existing subsistence, and authorized uses would be continued until it is demonstrated that they are no longer necessary for human survival. Hunting, fishing, and trapping will be allowed on areas subjected to applicable Federal and State laws. The Secretary of Interior would be authorized,

however, to regulate subsistence uses for such reasons as public safety and to prevent depletion of resources and thereby insure sustained benefits for all Americans."

It may not be apparent to the public when such a regulatory agency decides to pick on the little people. In this particular case the little people are apparently the Eskimo.

It seems to me this particular agency is bent on destroying a style of life which has been in existence before even their forefathers set foot on America! This time it's not blankets full of disease, it is by the use of

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regulations to which they want us to bend till we break.

The regulations proposed would do good if it did not affect human lives whose very lives still depend on the land and sea. To take away such a lifestyle such as we have today will not do us any good.

What I see in these regulations is like a motto:

Today our Lands — Tomorrow our Lives.

I hope our leaders in the decision-making process will take actions on this matter and correct what will turn to be another shameful action by the Federal government on a minority people.

Respectfully yours,
Ronald H. Brower
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cc: Senator Mike Gravel
Rep. Willie Hensley