

LETTERS to EDITOR

Mr. Howard Rock
Editor
Tundra Times
Fairbanks, Alaska
October 9, 1968

Dear Howard:

Thank you again for the invitation to your Tundra Times anniversary banquet and the great pleasure I derived from it. Many people I spoke to since agree that this was the finest banquet any of us attended in Alaska over the many years we were here. The food was superb and made available with miraculous speed.

I may be a little biased there, since the owner and chef of "Little Switzerland" is a fellow Swiss from my very hometown!

But most of all, I enjoyed the cheerful atmosphere which all those warm and enthusiastic people radiated. For the first time I felt "at home" in an Alaskan crowd. There was no pretense, none of that attempt to be "society" that looks so ludicrous on a frontier.

The Eskimo and Indian masters of ceremony were a scream—fit for any TV program. Your own jolly walrus-editor was great with his introductions, and the Eskimo couple drumming and dancing deserve special applause for throwing that magic spell over everyone—even moving the spirit of mighty chief Udall to join in the dance!

May you prosper and celebrate many more anniversaries!

Yule F. Kilcher
Homer, Alaska

The Editor
Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Sir:

"The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in times of crisis are silent." This well known quote by Dante was used by Senator Ernest Gruening when he announced his write-in campaign a few weeks ago. Because of your biased editorial about Senator Gruening and my own personal beliefs, I will heed the warning. "I shall not remain silent."

How, I ask, can one letter by one man, Clarence A. Katchatag possibly express the feelings of our native people, a "thousand fold"? Are we that vulnerable?

How can we possibly believe that a Republican will remain a Republican despite the fact that they possess a candidate like Barry Goldwater? They lost by the largest landslide in 1964 you recall and this year, 1968 they are the leading contenders for the presidency. What happened? I'll tell you what happened. The election system which "a thousand fold" of us have been accustomed to, has been disturbed. Now, after witnessing over a hundred million people in our nation "disturb" a system, how can we possibly believe that what Senator Gruening is doing is unethical and tragic?

This approaching election is one of the most crucial and I honestly urge each of you to think seriously about it. While contemplating, ask yourself: Who has the most experience, the most friends and contacts in Washington where they count, and who will do the best job? I also ask you to judge them on their personal record. Did his ideas, despite the obstacles of the moment, always center on goals attainable or unattainable? Are his yesterday's dedicated to today? Today, does he still dream of our tomorrow's?