

## What others say...

### **'Save the Permanent Fund'**

To the editor:

A new organization called "Save the Permanent Fund Committee" has formed. Better known as "SAVE," this effort has been established to stop the Alaska Legislature and governor from using any of the Permanent Fund income for the general fund or otherwise changing the way the income is used.

The immediate goal is to promote "SAVE" membership in each community in the state. From that membership, a grassroots effort will be made using petitions, letters and other methods to remind the elected officials that the Permanent Fund is for

all generations of Alaskans, when the oil is gone. It wasn't established to reduce deficits in this year's budget or any in the near future.

Your support is needed. If you want to help organize a group of citizens in your community to save the Permanent Fund, or just to get more information, write to: Save the Permanent Fund Committee, P.O. Box 7069, Bethel 99559.

Contributions to help pay for printing, postage, phone calls and other expenses will be gratefully accepted.

Thank you,  
Ivan Widom  
Bethel

### **Concerns about child abuse**

To the editor:

I am writing to you in regards to the outrageous lack of justice that we are seeing in our courtrooms today and over the last 10 years or so, concerning offenses against children.

I speak specifically about Alaska. Children in Alaska are being beaten, abused, neglected, raped, exploited, maimed for life and murdered, and their offenders are getting away with it! Some of our laws are too vague and outdated to be effective anymore. They need to be changed.

As for myself and a group of concerned citizens, we have decided to do whatever we can to get these laws changed so that children will receive a more fair day in court. We have petitions which are being circulated in Juneau and throughout towns and cities in Alaska.

All of you who feel the same way we do, please take a minute to read and sign them. Please bear in mind that I am not a legal professional in any way. I am an ordinary, everyday citizen, and I speak ordinary, everyday language.

Our laws were written to protect the innocent and to protect and preserve our society. Our laws were never intended to be so complex that the everyday, ordinary citizens could not read them.

It is a sad, sad day when our children cannot and do not receive justice in our courts. They are our future. Are we going to let our judicial system make them an endangered species?

I kid not. People who kill deer out of season or catch too many fish get more severe punishment at times than what some child offenders are getting in our Alaska courts today. This has to stop.

Our courts in Alaska do not reflect the values of our society. A change has to be made. It has to be made immediately.

Together we can do it. We need your help. We need your support.

Please join with us today. For more information, you can call me at 780-4767.

Louise Howerter  
Juneau

### **'Where will it end?'**

To the editor:

We have paid with lives most valuable and clear, listened with ears that need not hear. We know that what they have done was for their own, while we must pay this that's been done. We now must pay once again, because of their greed, our lives and lands, once again in their hands.

What was it then long ago that we did welcome to our lands, that lives to destroy life and lands, and now we live at the mercy of their hands.

A new way of life they brought and say we welcomed then, that they might rob us of life and land. Our rights destroyed and walked upon to live in their shadows and lose ourselves. Now today, once again, we listen as the drums toll, and we are deprived of

what is ours.

Where will it end, this depressing way as they oppress our say? Where will it end, this oppressive way of a people who came to stay on this our lands?

Where will it end when what we had is once again within our hands? Once again we must listen to the bell toll, not for freedom but for what we know has happened and is happening again.

I have heard it said we have given you everything, but what was theirs to give?

I have not a day in my life not paid for what I have gotten or done.

Respectfully,  
Clarence McConkey  
Valdez