

*"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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## Flubs Retard Progress . . .

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got just a smidgen of the taste of education, still believe this with conviction. But those who managed to go beyond and got a pretty good idea what life and its ways in the Western Culture is all about, have found, and are finding, that some persons responsible in making the thing go can make colossal flubs—the kinds that hurt the people they seek to lead. This is disheartening to say the least.

These flubs are not always easy to see, especially by the native people, because they are somewhat camouflaged in the authoritative sounding agencies—the kinds that make one think they can do no wrong.

However, a flub seemed to have developed in the progress of the native housing program here in Alaska. Within the confines of the Alaska State Housing Authority, and other agencies, it seems that things like, "You do this," "No, I won't," have been going on and a provision that would have expedited the native housing program fell short. The indecision inspired "plans and standards for this program need further refinement..no funds for this program are recommended at this time," as the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee concluded. That body, then, lopped off \$1 million from the \$10 million authorized last November to make improvements in the tragically inadequate housing of our native people.

There has already been an unpleasant drag in the implementation of the native housing program and the latest development will certainly not help the situation get any better. If there are ways to correct the miscue, then serious efforts should be in order and done quickly. If this is done, perhaps the U.S. Senate will be kinder to our people because housing in our rural areas is bad—abysmal—and the need, to improve it is desperate.

## Gastronomic Excellence of Reindeer Meat Draws Ah's from Japanese

Reindeer meat from Alaska received an enthusiastic response at a tasting party in Japan, according to an article from the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, translated for the Nome Nugget. The story reads:

A "Reindeer Eating Party" was held at 5:40 p.m. April 25 at the Hotel Japan Tokyo in Nagata-cho. The Alaska State Office sponsored the party to "sell" reindeer to meat deficient Japan. The guests numbered about 115 persons including the standing director of the Housewives' Federation, Mrs. Hyodo.

The tables were arranged with cooked reindeer meat in pieces ranging from large 20 centimeter ones (roasts) to small pieces of 5 centimeters

(hamburgers). The guests were subdued and hesitant at first, but soon delighted voices filled the room extolling the delicious taste of the meat. Immediate converts to reindeer "fans" were made of everyone present.

The price of the meat in Alaska is said to be about 50 cents per 500 grams which is cheaper than beef in Japan.

Reindeer meat at present is not allowed to be imported into Japan and the Alaska State Office states that it is difficult to understand why the Japanese Government does not permit the import of such delicious and cheap meat. The Agriculture and Welfare Ministries are to be approached for fuller understanding.

## ASCAP Looking For Coordinator For So. Central

The Alaska State Community Action Program, Inc., is looking for a new South-central Regional Coordinator to fill the position left vacant by newly elected Alaska Federation of Natives president Emil Notti.

Notti left the organization this month to travel to Washington with State Representative Willie Hensley to represent the Native people in the land claims talks.

Carried now on leave without pay, Notti is taking his position as AFN president and ASCAP is searching for a replacement.

"The job is extremely important," says ASCAP executive director Flore Lekanof. "The coordinator supervises all OEO activities

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## Couch Attends VER Conference

Alaska was one of twenty-nine states selected for participation in the pilot Service to Veterans Institute, held May 7-12, in Kellogg Center for Continuing Education at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

James S. Couch, Veterans' Employment Representative and Employer Relations Representative in the Fairbanks office of the ALASKA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, represented Alaska as one of the thirty-one VER'S selected to attend this pilot institute.

## Letters to Editor

P. O. Box 603  
Wrangell, Alaska 99929

Dear Editor:

I made \$32 from selling totem poles to the tourists Tuesday night April 4. I sold 4 totems. I must make more totem poles now because some people in Wrangell want some totems too.

Mr. Ukas and I told the stories about Chief Shakes house. In that Chief Shakes house, we have the oldest totems in Alaska and the 2 oldest photographs in Alaska. As far as I know Mr. Ukas is the only one who knows the complete stories of the Chief Shakes and the house after Mr. Ukas dies then the history of Chief Shakes will be dead. So he's teaching me the stories.

My dad's band played for the tourist. They loved the music.

Enclosed is a check for the eighty papers.

Sincerely  
Harold Riach

R.D.4 Mara Loma  
44691 Ohio  
May 8, 1967

Gentlemen:

Please send me one (1) copy of Tundra Times, written by the full blooded Eskimo, Howard Rock. Enclosed is twenty cents (20¢).

Your friend,  
Ricky Morris

## Writer Criticizes AFN Constitution

Dear Editor:

Now that we see the Interior Department proposed bill, a pattern becomes clear and it is one that should make us pause to consider just what is taking place and who is influencing whom.

In the hastily assembled convention at Anchorage, the group voted a constitution and by-laws which emphasized the small village concept. Earlier, the State had made a proposal that villages be given outright deed to a portion of land surrounding them. Now the very same embodiment is found in the Interior Department draft of the Congressional bill. Has someone somewhere made a commitment that they will try to get the Alaska native to accept this? Why does this current of idea run through all the various plans? By no stretch of the imagination can the Arctic Slope villages exist on an area of 50,000 acres. From actual experience, it takes at least 1,000,000 acres to sustain in good shape 1700 reindeer. And Barrow alone consumes over 4000 caribou annually and they are somewhat larger than the reindeer. In 25 years, the need will almost double.

The associations who lent strength to the villages by combining ethnically similar groups were a step forward in the power inherent in the native vote. These associations were instrumental in creating the interest in a statewide native conference. Without the concerted drive of the people behind the associations this would never have come to pass a year ago in September. The intent at this time was to form a federation of associations; not to delve into the area of the individual association operations, but to give weight and strength to the overall voice of the native peoples by applying statewide political pressure.

Yet on studying the constitution and by-laws, we see emerging from the cocoon of incubation an entirely different type of organization than which was originally planned. It, in effect, becomes another competing association by the very wording of its constitution and by-laws, committed to compete in the statewide area against the associations already formed and who have carried the burden so far, for the support of individuals and villages. Nowhere in the format of the new association is recognition given to the existing associations who gave birth to the idea of this, what was supposed to be a federation of associations. That those villages who in the meeting last September were not then formed into associations, was taken into consideration. They could either, (a) band together or, (b) join an existing association.

How, may I ask, will an independent village of 300 receive equal representation under the present constitution, with an association that numbers some four and a half thousand members?

To recreate what was in the original motion calling for a statewide organization, the board of governors will have to do immediate, radical and definite surgery on the constitution and by-laws so that it at least bears some resemblance to the intended original creation. To return to village concept is to play the game in weakness and on the terms the State and the Federal government want. Under the State and Interior Department bill, we wind up with LESS than we actually have at present. We MUST NOT play into that trap.

We have our vehicle for statewide native action; we must not abandon it, but we must be prepared to alter it to conform to the original blueprint so it will be effective and a representation of the organized power of our people.

Yours truly,  
Ahhbayok

## Sen. Lowell Thomas, Jr. Rebuts Nome Editorial

(Editor's Note: Lowell Thomas, Jr. is a State Senator in the Alaska legislature.)

May 12, '67

The Editor  
NOME NUGGET  
Nome, Alaska

Dear Mr. Editor:—

I have just seen the TUNDRA TIMES April 21 reprint of your editorial entitled "Handwriting On The Wall" in which you have reached an understandable but nevertheless wrong conclusion that I am no longer a friend of the folks up in your part of the country — all

because I voted against House Joint Resolution 21 which called upon Congress to invoke a federal Constitutional Convention for the stated purpose of considering the so-called "Dirksen Amendment", an amendment that would permit state legislatures across the nation to elect one house on a basis other than population. You have concluded that those of us who defeated this resolution in the Senate are sympathetic only with the city voters and that my "sympathies lie only with the majority of voters."

Now, Mr. Editor, let me  
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