

*Writer Spreads Mud—*

# 'Mrs. Disgusted' Labels Natives 'Lazy, Dirty': Attorney Replies

Dear Mr. (Attorney):

You make us sick working for the lazy, dirty natives. Perhaps you want to line your pockets. Don't see Russia or Canada helping them out. They put them to work.

Do you expect us whites that raised our families keep Alaska going and clean up after these natives. I think the decent people will move out and leave you with natives. See what happens then.

Mrs. Disgusted

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December 26, 1969

Dear Mrs. Disgusted:

Thank you for your letter. Attorneys in a democratic society have an obligation and a duty to represent their clients without fear of judicial or public displeasure, even as to those clients whom you believe to be lazy and dirty. And I intend to do so, as

would any other attorney.

Alaska is challenged with the opportunity of building a quality society for all Alaskans, a society in which each Alaskan has the opportunity of making full use of the talents God gave him, and a quality society in a quality environment. No society can guarantee that no one will be lazy or dirty, but we can and

should strive for a society which does not encourage exploitation or parasites.

Our oil revenues can provide part of the means for building such a society, but a quality society cannot be achieved without a fair, prompt and just settlement of the Native Land Claims. Moreover, as Native leaders know, the structure of the settlement, the way it is administered, is just as important as the amount of land and the amount of money granted. From the beginning, the leaders have seen the settlement as a means of providing Natives with training, education, health, and employment, so that they can truly take their place in the mainstream of the Alaskan econ-

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# Mrs. Disgusted...

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omy and Alaskan society.

And this is a goal which you should share. Should they not earn wages, and pay taxes? Should they not own property, and contribute to the burden of education and the cost of municipal services? Should they not be educated, and contribute fully to Alaskan society? Should they not have sanitary housing, built and paid for by their own efforts, and live beyond an average age of thirty-five? Should we not have a self-reliant society in Alaska? Or do you want to perpetuate dependency and the dole, with all of its costs, so some Alaskans can feel superior to others? I am sure you do not.

The road to a quality society is full of pitfalls; it will not be easy to achieve. Some who may

make decisions may decide they know what is best for the Natives and for Alaska, forgetting the need for self-reliance and self-fulfillment. Some may decide that conflict and confrontation is the way to achieve their ends, rather than compromise, adjustment and accomodation. Some may even be motivated by hatred, contempt or division rather than love and reconciliation.

But in this season, I have faith that Alaskans, men of good will, of all races and beliefs can and will reason together to settle the land claims of Alaska's Native peoples and continue the task of building a better Alaska for all.

Sincerely,

(Name withheld by request)