

"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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Editorial Comment—

The Resignation of President Nixon

One of the greatest powers of the world, the United States of America, had just experienced a most incredible upheaval in its 200-year history. The President of the land, Richard M. Nixon, resigned last Friday, the first President ever to do so.

In the light of extraordinary events that had gone on — chiefly the Watergate affair — the nation seemed to have breathed a collective sigh of relief, but, the nation also experienced a wave of trauma emanating from the tragedy in the guise of resignation of a President while in office in the White House. No matter what the cause that forced the President to resign, it was a profoundly sorrowful affair that seemed to have touched most of each individual heart in the Public America. Each heart seemed to have said, "I'm deeply sorry, Mr. Nixon, but you have not fairly represented me. Therefore, I have let you go because I need to be represented in greatest honesty possible in the line of duty you swore to protect and defend."

The Public America had awakened and what had awakened it was mainly the Watergate. The public is not always an easy mass to awaken but nevertheless, it awoke. When it does awake, it is a relentless force that almost no man can oppose. Once this force sets its direction, no man can stand in its way no matter how powerful he might be. The public steamrolls once its eyes are opened. Usually, that public is lackadaisical and dozy when its selected servants are doing a good job.

The public had shown its relentless power at some points in history but this time, it has demonstrated its full force in forcing resignation of President Nixon.

In less than an hour after his resignation, President Ford was replaced by Vice President Gerald R. Ford hailed as a man easily approached, a man that is open and a man who is widely recognized as having friends among the Republicans and Democrats of the Congress of the United States.

Gerald Ford will be known as a man who vaulted into great power in two giant strides within a year. He was asked by President Nixon to take the place of Vice President Spiro Agnew who was forced to resign. And last Friday, he was sworn in to take the place of Nixon. Within months, Ford has trod a tremendous path into the White House.

As for the former President Richard M. Nixon, he will be remembered by Alaska's Native people as the man who has, in no small measure, helped to steer the resolution of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act when he signed the measure on December 18, 1971 — an act that had been in the process for a hundred years. In spite of himself, Richard Nixon has left a legacy upon which Alaska's Native folks are pinning their hopes for a better future for themselves and those that will live after them. We do not know how history will be dealing with the disclaimed President Nixon, but we will not be able to forget his contribution toward the betterment of Alaska's Native people.

Letters from Here and There

There Is Indeed A Molly Hootch

Emmonak, Alaska
August 5, 1974

Dear Sir:

This is in relation to the article about the AFN Human Resources Conference on education in the unorganized borough in your July 24th edition. The article mentioned the case of Molly Hootch v.s. Alaska State-Operated School System. The part I'm writing you about is this:

"There is a rumor that she is a fictitious person symbolizing rural students in that position." That rumor of course isn't true since I'm Molly Hootch. I'm very much alive. Marshall Lind would also tell you I'm real and not a fictitious person as he was my teacher several years ago. I went to Dimond-Mears High School at Anchorage for the first 2 years but I finished my 11th grade year here at Emmonak. I'll also finish my senior year here.

I appreciate Christopher Cooke, my lawyer, writing and telling you that I'm very much a real person but I wanted to write to you personally so you wouldn't have any doubts.

Sincerely,
/s/ Molly A. Hootch

Molly Hootch's Lawyer Confirms Her Existence

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August 2, 1974

Letters to the Editor
Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Sir:

I am writing to correct a statement contained in the article about the A.F.N. Human Resources Conference on education in the unorganized borough in your July 24th edition. The article mentioned the case of Molly Hootch v.s. Alaska State-Operated School System, a lawsuit seeking local high school opportunities in all Alaska Native communities, and then said: "There is a rumor that she is a fictitious person symbolizing rural students in that position."

As Molly Hootch's lawyer I would like to say that she most definitely is a very real person. Molly lives in Emmonak and has just completed the 11th grade. At one time she was a boarding student in Anchorage, but after the lawsuit was started a high school program was set up in Emmonak which she attended this past school year.

Since her suit is filed as a "class action", however, you correctly note that she and the other plaintiffs do represent all Alaska Native school-age children living in similar circumstances, in other words in communities without local high school opportunities.

Marshall Lind, who is also mentioned in your article, was an elementary teacher in Emmonak several years ago and Molly Hootch was one of his

students. Now as Commissioner of Education, Dr. Lind is a defendant in her lawsuit.

Very truly yours,
RICE, HOPPNER, BLAIR & HEDLAND

Christopher R. Cooke

Authentic Native Handicrafts

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic
Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Washington, D.C. 20235

Mr. Howard Rock
Chairman, Village Art Upgrade Committee
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rock:

This is in reply to your letter dated July 1, 1974, concerning the proposed rules to designate "Authentic Articles of Native Handicraft and Clothing," published in the Federal Register on June 3, 1974.

Due to public response three joint hearings on the subject will be held in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Service. The hearings have been tentatively scheduled for mid-September, 1974, in Anchorage, Nome, and Fairbanks, Alaska.

When final arrangements have been made, notice will be published in the Federal Register.

Sincerely,
Robert W. Schoning
Director

Church Torn Down: Fred Stickman Is Sad

Nulato, Alaska
August 1, 1974

Dear Editor:

The church here was rebuilt in 1923 by a carpenter from Ruby, Alaska, the big mining town. How I remember the year was, my brother took them to Ruby and I went up to school and him to work out at the mines on bridge. They whipsawed the logs for bridge at Greenstone. And the sanctuary and altar were rebuilt by Brother Horweede and Father Baud.

How many people had, we had funeral for in that church. Good many in all these years. And I've been thinking one of these days I was going in there, but they beat me to it — they tore it all down.

It sure is sad for us, the old people when they tore it down. It reminds me of all my family and I'm one stickman left out of our family. The bum one is left. Lots of folks say that they were lucky they didn't get killed. For me it's a little different. I'm lucky if I get killed even though I hate to get killed. Everything will be all over for me. No more work, no more hard times. I'm tired of many things, no road, no inside toilets, no water, no housing, no cook, no women, no nothing, just pure misery, miserable word. Because there lots of gnats now, lots of fish, lots of ducks, lots of gas, lots of fuel now, and lots of long hair boys and lots of loose mongrel dogs that is, just enough to make life miserable.

I quit going to funerals, potlatches, because I used to get

drunk and celebrate someone's funeral. So I quit four months ago, try to give a good example to boys where I made ornerly mistakes. I cut my hair real short but still nobody cuts his hair.

We sure need to haul wood. We have a half a — road about 20 miles that could be fixed easy if we had the equipment. That's where the state took the equipment to Koyukuk about four years ago for the New Koyukuk, but the ground was mucky. It's good and solid now. People don't like to move from the village including myself. We don't realize we'd had running water, no trouble for fuel, etc.

But who wants to live modern? Some do, some don't. I like to live poor. That way I'll, or might, go to heaven, who knows, only God.

I heard the silvers are coming up the river. They haven't reached Nulato yet. People is getting ready to raise hell for fish eggs. That means they're going to kill lots of fish. No fish for next year. Easier and lot more money to make on the North Slope, instead of monkeying around with the fish.

We have stockpile of gravel down here if we could just spread it around the village so the kids will have gravel for their sling shots.

I'm not voting this year so vote Democrat for me. And I'll thank you very much for it. Fred Stickman, Sr.

Awareness of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

July 26, 1974

Dear Howard:

Again I write you with mixed feelings, this time it's with grief and a growing awareness of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse no longer alien to our land and culture. Reading of this problem in the newspapers is one thing; getting letters from personal friends in regards to it is another!

Within the last two weeks I've heard from two Native families struck hard by addiction. From my own experience I know the suffering these people are going through. In some cases it only ends in prison or death... For other family members, the pain lasts a lifetime.

As a Native Alcoholic myself, I can tell you there is no cure for alcoholism. It can be arrested though. Having worked with Drug Addicts I can tell you the same holds true, they cannot be cured.

Again, they can arrest their problem. An alcoholic is a drug addict. Both suffer addiction. What everybody should know Howard, is that it's so damn much less of a strain on families and society to prevent addiction in the first place.

Preventive action should start in our schools. Native Corporations should put more effort, (time/money) and most important, people to work on this growing threat to Native culture.

Being a prisoner in Folsom Prison in California for an alcohol-related crime has made me more aware of how great this problem is becoming. Every bus bringing new men into prison carries alcoholics and drug addicts.

The shame of it all is there's no cure for these men in prison

(Continued on page 8)