

# Letters from Here and There

1215 Hess  
College, Alaska 99701  
24 March 1972

getting is from ivory and skins  
and so forth.

Point Hope, Alaska  
March 24, 1972

Dear Mr. Rock:

Now that the Land Claims Settlement has passed, Congress, I feel that I should be allowed to state my opinion. This is my own opinion and I take full responsibility for it. In other words, don't use it against any other Indians.

I feel that it is a shame to settle for a little bit of Alaska and some money. Indians of America should have been able to band together, however diverse they are, and claim North America. Well we didn't. Be that as it may, the Alaskan Native people banded together in a homogenous group to settle the land claims of Alaska. I question how the United States government could legally settle the land claims of Alaska. You know that the United States of America bought Alaska from Russia. The question is; was Alaska, Russia's to sell? Did Russia own Alaska, or did Russia merely exploit this land for furs and other riches? If Russia did not own Alaska, how could she sell it to the United States of America? If she did not own Alaska but did sell it to the United States of America, then the U.S. came into possession of stolen property. Now even your most jaded unenthusiastic Alaskan will admit Alaska is worth more than \$100.00. Some may feel it is not worth much more than that, but all will agree it is worth at least \$100.00. If the United States government inadvertently came into possession of stolen property worth more than \$100.00, it could be logically accused of committing a felony. Possession of stolen property worth more than \$100.00 constitutes a felony by the laws of the United States of America.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Wescott

Scammon Bay, Alaska 99662  
March 27, 1972

The Honorable Sen. Hollings  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Hollings:

I would like to write a few items of my own personal feelings regarding the Sea Mammal Bill. When Congressman Nick Begich report this from Washington, D. C. it was a shock to all the people of the Bering Sea coast. Now taking the meat from sea mammal for subsistence it's OK, but the products for commercial use should not be cut.

I carve ivory for living to support my big family of nine children, and I am already feeling to be guilty for feeding my children. This source of income is the only way I make a living on the Bering Sea coast.

If this bill is passed, a lot of families will suffer and that is bad. It's a dark future for all of us and I hope it will not pass. It must be looked over again.

I am very grateful for a few number of Senators who are fighting this bill for us. Most Senators must be thinking we are getting too rich from the land claims settlement. Alaska, our state, is rich for more than \$500,000,000 but we don't get any part of this money — only small amount of money we are

I also wanted to say this. If the Lower states want to get even with the rich state of Alaska, why don't Congress cut foreign aid bill and stop the costly Vietnam war?

I certainly hope that this bill will not pass. We must all understand one another as we're all united under one God.

This is all I have to say.

Good bye and God bless you all,

Sincerely yours,

Homer Hunter, Sr.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Bernice Sheldon's fourth graders at Point Hope wrote enmasse to Senator Ernest Hollings, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, and expressed their concern, about the sea mammal bill pending action in the U.S. Senate. We are printing a few of the letters representative of the group. Due to lack of space, we are sorry that we can't print all of them.)*

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Senator Ernest Hollings  
Senate Commerce Committee  
Room 432  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Honorable Senator Hollings:

My name is Frank Patrick Attungana and I'm nine years old. I'm an Eskimo boy. I'm in the 4th grade. I live in Point Hope. My father catches some sea mammals and my grandfather catches some animals too. How can my grandfather make basket out of baleen. If you make a law that we can't sell things made from sea mammals? I don't like that bill. I hope you get rid of the Sea Mammal Bill.

Sincerely,

Frank Attungana

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Honorable Senator Hollings:

I am an Eskimo girl who is 11 years old. My mother makes  
(Continued on Page 7)

# LETTERS . . .

(Continued from page 2)

mukluks and my dad makes masks. They sell them at the store and we need that money for food and gas for the stove to keep the house warm. We need the money to buy the things we need. The Sea Mammal Bill is terrible and we don't like that. The people of Point Hope want money so they sell the things they made.

Yours truly,

Elizabeth Nash

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Honorable Senator Hollings:

I am an Eskimo boy. I am eleven years old. I don't like the sea mammal bill. My grandfather uses baleen to make very pretty baskets. Please stop this bad bill.

Sincerely,

Ikey Hank

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Honorable Senator Hollings:

I am an Eskimo girl in the 4th grade and I am 11 years old. My name is Martha Hank.

I don't like your bills. We need animals for food and oil so we can live well. People need to carve or sew so we can earn money for our clothes, boots, stove oil and many other things we need for our homes. I really am worried about this bill. I wish we can have hearings here in Alaska so we can tell you why we use these animals. I hope we have hearings about the sea mammal bill.

Sincerely yours,  
Martha Hank