

letters

Don't open haul road

Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska 99721
September 12, 1978

Dear Editor:

Ever since July, we heard or we read about the Haul Road. It's another big problem up here in the north slope area, and the pipeline was built and it spoiled most of our land and our hunting.

Mostly, hunting is a very big problem ever since the pipeline was built, because most of the people notice right after Pipeline was built, the caribou herd that used to come from the east through Anaktuvuk Pass didn't come through that spring.

Now, that caribou on the east side of Pipeline got a new name, Porcupine herd. They never used to call them that name. And they call the Western herd that on the left side of Pipeline. That's why the herds that used to travel from east to west hardly travel because of Pipeline, so there's not much caribou on the west side.

Still, quite a few, but that limit is something else. They don't understand the living up here. You know, our forefather Grandfather, our father live up here for a long time, live off the land and animals. They done that many, many years. O.K. if we talk about land. We people up here should have the right to claim any land because we are following the old people's route.

Also on animals, our people have been living on animals for years and years. We people are subsistence people, used of game. We just can't go without our food. Every time we eat that other food, we get hungry, because we never used to eat that kind of food.

If they going to open the haul road, they're going to be more people and the land and hunting is going to get worse.

I think the village people should make decision on land and game. We have used the land and game many, many years than anybody else.

Thank you,
Raymond Paneak

Develop our human resource

Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Editor:

If the Native people are to achieve total self-determination, then we must, by all means, unite our efforts to develop our human resources. By human resources, I mean our younger children. This is where self-determination is going to start, develop and be implemented.

We have, for so long, depended and have been dominated by the federal government, federal agencies and state agencies. This was not from lack of determination by our elders, but it was the lack of the federal government in their responsibility to the American Indians and Alaska Natives through the 'Buy Indian Act' of 1936.

With the PL93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, and PL94-437, Indian Health Care Improvement Act, are about the two most important pieces of legislation that have ever come through the U.S. Congress in regard to Indian destiny.

With these, we can guide our destiny, but we need the resources - the education of our children. We need programs started at the grassroots, not from Juneau or Washington. Then, we can

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develop programs, united, with human resources. Develop them from kindergarten to college. The agencies have neglected the children. Develop our human resources, such as doctors, nurses, administrators, accountants, heavy equipment operators, lab technicians.

There are so many fields open to Natives under Title I, Manpower Improvement Act. This fund was removed by President Carter because some Congressman or advisor said we didn't need this assistance. We must unite to get the money restored. Title I has all the resources for the development of our Native corporations, health entities, the total system depends on programs such as Title I.

We can say we are self-determined only after we get our people in key positions.

We must learn to use these laws to our benefit and the only way we can learn to use them is to educate our children so they can interpret the laws to our benefit. Without human resources, these two laws will just be two laws that were passed on behalf of the Indian people of America.

Thank you,
Stephen Matthew

Long delay on subsistence law

524 West Sixth Avenue, No. 204
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
September 11, 1978

Ronald O. Skoog,
Commissioner
Alaska Department of
Fish and Game
Support Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Commissioner Skoog:

I have just received your news release dated September 1, 1978 which indicates that "no action will be taken on subsistence issues until the Board's spring meeting..." I wish to register my strong objection to this delay in the implementation of SCS SHB 960am S (Chapter 151, SLA 1978). Since proposals for subsistence regulations will be accepted by the Board up until the spring meeting, it is safe to assume that no subsistence regulations will be in effect until well into the summer of 1979.

That is based on the well founded assumption that the Board of Fisheries will be unable to make a final decision at its spring meeting because of the complexity of the issues raised by the new subsistence law. Such a delay is completely unacceptable. You indicated in a meeting with me on August 9, 1978 that you expected draft regulations implementing the new subsistence law by the end of October, and that you expected them to be presented at the December Board meeting for discussion and possible final action. However, you also indicated at that meeting that there was no one working on regulations to implement that subsistence law.

You have known since June of this year that the subsistence law would go into affect in October, and yet you have done nothing to implement that law except draft some proposed job descriptions. You even indicated at our August 9 meeting that most of the staff positions would not be filled until January of 1979.

I can think of no excuse justifying the type of delays that are now being proposed. I think the Legislature made clear last year that the subsistence issue was extremely important and needed immediate attention. A delay of over one year in implementing the subsistence pre-

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ference suggests that we were right in insisting that there was no adequate voice for subsistence users within the Department of Fish and Game.

I hope that you, in your position as Commissioner, can urge your staff, your attorneys, and the Boards of Fisheries and Game to expedite the process of implementing the subsistence preference as set out in the new subsistence law.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Alaska Legal Services Corp.
Donald E. Clocksin
Chief Counsel

cc: Tundra Times

Tanana Devel. Council meeting

Tanana Rural Devel. Council
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Editor:

The Tanana Valley Rural Development Council will be meeting in Fairbanks on October 10. The main topic of discussion will be the coordination of planning efforts of federal, state, local and non-profit agencies.

The meeting will be held in the conference room at the offices of Fairbanks Town and Village Association, 407 Second Avenue (formerly the Chena Bar).

The morning session will begin at 8:30 a.m. and representatives from planning entities will discuss their activities in Interior Alaska. The afternoon session, which will include a general discussion and recommendation for coordination of planning efforts and election of new officers, is scheduled to adjourn at 4:10 p.m.

Sincerely,
Rynniewa Wescott
Chairman