

Letters from Here and There

Dear Howard:

I cannot tell you how much pleasure it gives me to advise you that you have been nominated and selected for one of this weeks Hank Awards. Several hundred of your friends throughout Alaska have written to me nominating you for the award, and as one of those fortunate enough to claim you as a friend, I am more than happy at your selection.

I give you the Hank, not only in thanks for your continued acts of human kindness toward your fellow men, but also in thanks for your selfless and sincere dedication to the hopes and ideals of our people.

Your friend,
Sasha

(Miss) Irmtraut Theissen
81 Scharnhorststr.
21 BREMEN
West Germany
June 1, 1970

Dear Sirs,

My dearest wish is to start a correspondence with the Alaskan Indians and Eskimos. Do you know young people, students or others who would like to correspond or could you please propose who I ought to address my request to?

Furthermore, I should like to mention that I am teacher at a primary school I am 24 years old.

I thought that you would not mind if I were to write to you

and ask for advice.

I should be very pleased indeed and grateful to you for any information you may have on this subject.

Awaiting your kind reply I remain, dear Sirs,

Yours very truly,
Irmtraut Theissen

June 2, 1970

Mr. Charles Brown
VISTA Regional Administrator
618 Second Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Mr. Brown:

We, the City Council of Kaltag, Alaska, would like to state our very strong objection to a decision which was recently made to close the Legal Services Office in Galena, Alaska. We object both to the decision itself and to the way in which it was communicated to us.

First, the decision to close the Galena office. As far as we know, Galena is the only Legal Services office which is being closed at this time. Why? Is it that there is so little legal work to be done in this area of the state? Or is it that the legal problems of the people of the middle Yukon region are simply less important than those of natives in other parts of the state? Mr. Ron Keithley, the Vista lawyer in Galena, has been to Kaltag twice and has helped our people with a great many legal problems. Among other things, he has helped

with the reorganization of the village's co-op store.

Second, we object very strongly to the way in which we were informed of the decision to close the Legal Services office in Galena on June 15. At this date, we have still not heard from you, or Mr. Mercer, or Mr. Allen, or any other Vista or Legal Services administrator concerning this decision. An important decision, which effects us directly, has been made, and no one in Vista or Legal Services has had the decency to inform us of the decision or ask our opinion of it. Apparently the only one who thought we were even entitled to know of the decision was Mr. Keithley. In a letter dated May 27, 1970 he informed us that all cases now being handled in Galena, and all future legal work, will be handled in either Fairbanks or Anchorage. Need we point out that Galena is considerably more convenient to the people of Kaltag and surrounding villages than is Fairbanks or Anchorage?

In conclusion, we urge you, Mr. Brown, to reconsider this very unwise decision. In the future we would appreciate being informed of decisions which you or others are making which effect our lives.

Sincerely yours,
Kaltag City Council

Copies to: John Sackett, State Representative
Phillip Byren: Alaska Legal Services Corp.
Tundra Times