

Letters to the Editor

P.O. Box 58
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
April 17, 1970

Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
Alaska Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

My dear Sir:

This communication refers to House Joint Resolution No. 112 introduced in the House by Commerce Committee just a month ago today. Such a commendation and writ of appreciation about the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been long overdue in my opinion. I wish to state my compliments to the House for this fine gesture.

As a native of Alaska and as an employee of the Bureau since 1954 (I lost the 1954 election) the passage of the said Resolution would have had my strong support were I still sitting in Legislative chambers.

In opposition to destructive criticism against the BIA by "unthinking persons" (as the Resolution states) it has always been my firm belief that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has done a pretty good job in assisting all Alaskan natives for advancement to American way of life. True, we can always accept constructive criticism, but in any situation destructive type does not always help.

You, with this Resolution, have my utmost respect, and I am sure many a native in Alaska feels the same way.

Yours respectfully,
Percy Ipalook, Sr.

cc: Chairman, Commerce Committee.

To My Eskimo Friends:

Not long ago, I visited one of the Eskimo villages. On the last day of my visit the following incident took place.

I returned to the clinic after lunch to find a husky about three to four years old on the doorstep bleeding from an apparent bullet hole below the ribs. Investigation of the trail of blood revealed he had made a complete circuit looking for help. Attempts to locate his family were futile in that they refused to come. As the patient was beyond help, he was mercifully shot to death by the teacher.

Were this an isolated incident, perhaps it would be easier to forget the look in that dog's eyes. But I am learning (from Eskimo sources) that the practice of shooting a dog so he will die later and thus conceal his murderer's identity is not an uncommon practice, nor is it confined to this village.

The village law prohibiting loose dogs is a good one; nor do I object to the law saying loose dogs may be shot. I only hope the next time it seems necessary, each of you will be man enough to shoot to kill—instantly.

Sincerely,
A Gussuk Friend

Pioneers Home
Sitka, Alaska 99835
April 25, 1970

Open letter to Alaska legislators—Republicans, Democrats and Independents.

Dear Editor:

As ever before State of Alaska needs Independent, democratic governor instead of undemocratic, reactionary, greedy wonder boy man.

So it is up to you legislators of Alaska.

Alaska Constitution needs amendment (to curb power of the Governor). Let's hear from you legislators, people's representatives. Let's hear from you about Wickersham, and Hickel Highway deal. Clarify that.

Present legislators must thrash out all those wonder deals before adjourning, and remember "Panama Oil Scandal" during Republican President Harding's administration in 1924-1925.

Truth always comes out sooner or later. Money is not everything.

Honest man, sleep sound.

Yours truly,
/s/ Boris Chernikoff, Sr.

Nikolai, Alaska 99691
April 16, 1970

Dear Editor:

During the six months my husband and I have spent in Nikolai as Vista Volunteers many children have asked questions about the "outside." This "outside" refers not to the lower-48 but to that part of Alaska outside the village.

It may seem strange to call Fairbanks, Anchorage, the Matanuska Valley, and Kodiak Island the "outside," but when a whole life is spent living in a small village between the Alaska Range and the Kuskokwim Mountains and isolated from the rest of Alaska by trees, valleys, mountains, and miles of wilderness, it seems reasonable to assume that these children would call anything not near the village "outside."

Because the Mikolai school children have inquisitive minds and strong curiosities they have gotten together and are trying to raise enough money to see Fairbanks, Anchorage, the Matanuska Valley, and Kodiak Island. The children have been raising money through bake sales and selling their own handicrafts, but they have a long way to go and need all the support they can get.

We need help from individuals or organizations that would be interested in participating in the planning and support of this trip. If you would like more information about the children, the village or how you can help with the Nikolai Children's Fund, then please write to me and the children.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Kai Dickey