

Letter to Editor

Nenana, Alaska

Oct. 19, 1970

Dear Friend Howard Rock:

A lot of people asked me why I didn't run for Representative. The best way to answer that is this way. It's easy with a paper and pencil. Lot of people fight with a pencil and paper through the News-Miner editor.

There were five running from down around home. That's No. 1. Then at my home town, 2½ months after they elected me for President, they tried to vote me out with 65 voters. That's No. 2.

Letter came from Juneau to Nulato saying I was a drunk. That's No. 3.

That's when I started to lock my door and put heavy curtains on the window. Now I had to move down here to Nenana for the winter. Watchman for Polar Lumber Supplies, south end of town. You can't miss it. Come down and stop to visit if you got time. The coffee pot is on. I'll tell you all about it.

This how I was forced to turn Democrat. During depression when the Republicans were in, even though the fur was high and the grub cheap. I worked as a foreman for \$2.50 a day. And there was always somebody in jail year round. I mean the jail was full. People from all over because there's just one place there was jail at Nulato.

After Republicans was in for 20 years, I bet 20 dollars Democrat was going in and I won. I thought something had to change and it did. Nobody in jail, a lot of work. My guess was right.

Since my friend passed away, Sen. Bob Bartlett, I have had hard time to stay on the job for the United States Air Force. The President is cutting the budget. They always tell me they have no more money, but they have money to hire dishwashers at the base. I can't understand it. They take \$5,000 a year out of my wages, they should keep me on the job, but they don't, now they have to give me \$60 a week unemployment.

I want to retire at 63 but I don't know what to do. I might go nuts.

Be sure and vote Democrat before we have depression again.

I worked 12 years for the Air Force and I worked as carpenter for about 40 years. I'm qualified, that's what they tell me, but they let me go. I hate to be pushed around like that. It's because I'm Indian maybe, my age, or physical, or my conduct.

I try every way I know. I have to shave every day, get my haircut like a "GI", etc.

Looks to me like the haircut is too high, maybe that's how we have too many Hippie type school kids. Every village school should have a barber paid by the government.

I can't get used to it. It gives me the shakes. So be sure and vote Democrat. Things is bound to change then.

I hope.

FRED STICKMAN