

Letters from Here and There

Another Letter Complains About Aniak Situation

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter is obviously controversial. We are printing it to generate some dialogue on the matters discussed in it. Any persons having knowledge of the subject raised by the writers of this letter, whether or not in agreement with them as to facts or opinions, is welcome to contribute a letter to the Editor of the Tundra Times.)

Aniak State School
P.O. Box 518
Aniak, Alaska 99557
April 12, 1971

Dear Mr. Rock:

We wish to thank you personally for the courtesy you showed our community in publishing Mr. Fred Notti's letter in regards to our "Church-Welfare-State" situation. It probably has not had its equal in modern post-reformation days.

We support Mr. Notti's contention that a Human Rights Commission investigation is in order. We could use much paper and describe shenanigans committed—taking pictures of people because they return from Bethel with booze, attacking a passer-by with a hammer and breaking his wine bottles, coercing people into supporting a particular morality, insisting to others that the "Native people" are not "socially mature" enough to make decisions in regards to the conduct of their personal sex lives and then, on the other hand, expecting support from the "socially immature". These actions are only made more incredible by the fact that state agencies support them—due to the chain of command (an obviously predisposed magistrate), the first legal authority consulted.

We implore you to look into these matters before more damage is done "in the name of God and the State of Alaska."

Aniak State School
Teaching Staff
(names withheld by request).

Eskimos Are Ahead of Us: Fred Stickman

Eielson, Alaska
April 14, 1971

Dear Editor:

The Eskimos are about 8 years ahead of us. In 1964 I was working at Unalakleet. That's the time they were laying out the pipes for sewer all over the village. Last summer the same at Holy Cross. Pipes all over the village 7 feet deep. Running water in every cabin.

What's the matter with my home Nulato, the place I was born 64 years ago on Easter Sunday. The school got a well, warm buildings, oil stoves and we're freezing alongside. No wood to buy, no oil to buy.

I heard they're trying to build another school. Why don't they build houses for poor people?

We have a rich land that was stolen from us. And was sold. Can we get it back soon as possible, before it's too late? We're starving in the villages and freezing winter time, and mosquitoes eating us in the summer. Does anyone feel sorrow for poor people. They're holler-ing about starving moose but no one think of us. We're human being no animals.

Forget the schools we have enough of them. Build Pioneer's Home for poor, old people like me. I can't live in my home. It's too cold. Give us our land back.

Fred Stickman, Sr.

P.S. I'm working but the taxes is eating me up.

Writer Questions Land Ownership

April 11, 1971
Troy, Mont.

Dear Rock:

I see an argument about who owns the land. God owns the land and He will not let anybody keep it forever that does not use it. I do not see how anyone can call himself an American who tries to move people off the land they have used for generations. American law gives people a Squatter's Right to the land they have used for 10 years or so. It varies in different places. American law is based on Common Law that goes so far back few people know when it started but it is the law given by God when He first put people on the earth.

The reason white men were able to take so much land from the Indians is that they were fighting each other and keeping the population down so the land was not being used much. Now the Indians are getting together their future looks better. Now that the white men are trying to keep the population down and make parks and wilderness areas everywhere their future looks worse.

Holding up projects the country needs like the pipeline is bad. We have pipelines all over down here and we hardly know they are there. They are the best way to transport things without spoiling the country. The Homestead Law was passed to give people the land they need but the Taylor Grazing act ruined that here and now they are trying to keep people from getting homes in Alaska.

Yours truly
Paul White