

# Letters to the Editor

Kake, Alaska  
February 21, 1969

Dear Mr. Rock:

"Mere drop in the bucket," or "A few cents in a million," is the expression rightly used by many natives when referring to Native Land Claims compensation offered.

Example: Southeast Tlingit and Haida land claims settlement. Mere Pittance!, if distributed on a Per Capita bases. Some of our local fishermen paid larger Federal income tax that year. Do not think that our fishermen are rich. I am referring to the few that were lucky enough to get on a top boat in a good season.

Eben Hopson's article in the Feb. 14th issue of the Tundra Times is another example. He states, "While we, the Natives are forced to wait and sit, in spite of our screams of injustice on proposed land claims."

Yet responsible people read with deaf ears. They argue before finishing an article: "Too much, too much! How can we make any money from your land if you ask for too much?" All thought of Democracy is lost before an article is read through.

How could I or the average native argue and convince the congressmen, lawyers and justices of a right we believe in? It is like throwing a snow ball on a hot fire. Our arguments disappear before we are understood. Obviously we must be an avalanche to convince them that we only want what is rightfully ours.

In line with the editorial in the Tundra Times, Feb. 17th, that stresses communications between Natives and Tundra Times; and that Native leaders be heard, I am hoping that this little snowball article is the start of a very, very large snowball. All regional native organizations and community leaders should be well informed and heard from.

Let those that oppose tear apart this article given in, as we say, "broken dish" language. If he says, there isn't any injustice, then the laws he believes in must be for the rich alone.

Very truly yours,  
Louis Austin

Note: The most or one of the most popular radio programs is problem corner. Ira Blue, in the Hungry Eye, in San Francisco is another popular radio program. I just wonder if this type could be adapted to the newspaper. This would be one way of increasing communications between communities and increasing sales. I know I have a subscription, but if I did not have, I would surely buy a paper. I would also be very interested in what other regional leaders write. Letters to the Editor is very good. Perhaps that should be increased.

March 4, 1969

Dear Editor:

As fellow workers of Professor Don Charles Foote, who died last Saturday following an auto accident, we believe Alaskans should know of the contributions of Dr. Foote to Alaska and to mankind.

The study of human geography was his specialty, which led him to spend two years studying human and biological life patterns in the area of Cape Thompson. This study was financed by the Atomic Energy Commission to determine effects of a nuclear blast (Project Chariot) proposed for the purpose of creating a harbor.

During the two-year period of the study, Dr. Foote and his wife lived at Point Hope in the same manner as the Eskimo people of that community, and came to know and understand them and

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their way of life. He also came to see, as a result of the studies which he and other scientists conducted, that the proposed nuclear blast presented a danger to the residents and the plant life of the Cape Thompson region.

When the dangers of the nuclear blast were reported to the Atomic Energy Commission by Dr. Foote and several of his colleagues, that agency at first resisted their conclusions and proceeded for preparations for the blast. However, as a result of nationwide publicity concerning the dangers involved, Project Chariot was subsequently abandoned.

Another constructive result of the firm stand taken by Dr. Foote and other scientists was a study by AEC of radioactive fallout on residents of Anaktuvuk resulting from nuclear bomb testing. The evidence turned up by that study helped alert people all over the world to the hazards of continued testing of atomic testing of atomic weapons.

The above described episode in the life of the late Don Charles Foote is particularly appropriate to note this day—March 4, 1969—since this day has been set aside by many scientists in the United States in order to focus attention on how the "misuse of scientific and technical knowledge presents a major threat to the existence of mankind."

One of the last communications received from Dr. Foote by many of his colleagues was an announcement of the planned day of protest and a copy of his response (addressed to Dr. Steven Weinberg, Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in which he stated "I hereby pledge to increase my attempts to redirect scientific effort away from military research."

Since Dr. Foote is no longer alive to work towards that worthy objective, we his colleagues pledge to intensify our own efforts in that direction, and hope that this letter may serve to inform Alaskans of their stake in preventing the misuse of scientific knowledge. We hope also that note will be taken of the fact that individual men of principle—such as Don Foote—must often stand against powerful organizations in order to prevent decisions contrary to the welfare of mankind.

/s/ Thomas A. Morehouse

/s/ Donald Prozesky

/s/ James D. Babb

/s/ Jack Hession

/s/ Arthur E. Hippler

/s/ Jane Sutherland

/s/ Susan Foster

/s/ James W. Sullivan

/s/ Eugene D. Eaton

/s/ Thomas C. Woodruff