

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." - Voltaire

Tundra Times



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The Uncommunicative AFN...

(Continued from page 1)

the State was informed as it should be. The native people, along with other citizens of Alaska, can be deeply grateful that there was ample news material on this important matter. The AFN played a good role in this publicity even though its part in it was somewhat indirect more or less.

On other matters important to the native people, however, the statewide native organization has tended to be disturbingly uncommunicative with the resulting dilemma that the native people it supposed to represent know very little of what the AFN is doing or what it is trying to do in their behalf. Perhaps the people in the outlying areas are fully informed of what is going on but we of the Tundra Times are not aware of it.

We think that if Tundra Times has been bypassed on information of what AFN is doing, so are the little people—the mass of the native population in Alaska. This is the vitally important mass that shouldn't be left out of important information that concerns it. The little people in it want to know what is going on. We know because they wait weekly for the Tundra Times "because your paper is very informative" and we know also that they would like to know more about the AFN and what it is doing.

The AFN is an organization expressly established to serve the native people and they want to believe in it. The statewide native body can lose its dynamism by being too reticent—by being publicity shy—by being overly close-mouthed.

AFN is statewide. So is the state government. We wonder what would happen if Governor Walter J. Hickel would publicly cease to inform the state population of what the state is doing. We can be sure that the resulting clamor as a result of it would be deafening.

How is the fund raising effort progressing outside of three contributors we know of: The Episcopal Diocese of Alaska through the eminent offices of Bishop William Gordon that contributed \$1,000; the Alaska Native Brotherhood, \$500; Mr. and Mrs. Dick Pedrick of Rockford, Illinois, \$15.

The fund that is being raised is for traveling expenses of the native delegations and their attorneys to Washington, D. C. and Juneau, the state capitol, to work on behalf of land matters and the goal has been set at \$72,000.

It is no wonder that Fred Paul, attorney for the Arctic Slope Native Association, noting the lethargy in the fund raising effort said in exasperation in his open letter in the Tundra Times last week:

"...But I say unto you, somebody better light a firecracker under this lethargy or your bill will be just as silently killed."

Letters to the Editor

P. O. Box 58
Kotzebue, Alaska
March 13, 1968

Dear Editor:

It is somewhat with a certain amount of apathy that I read of Mrs. Rosaire M. Kennedy's viewpoints as presented in TUNDRA TIMES (March 8, 1968). It so happens that I, too, am a full-fledged Eskimo like the Natives living at Noorvik.

As some of us have seen, well-meaning benefactors come to us, stay with us a while, and learn all the answers to our native problems. I will, however, give the credit to Mrs. Kennedy for her concern and willingness to correct any and all discrepancies of BIA method of education.

What I cannot fully comprehend is Mrs. Kennedy's report on a certain Wainwright young lady, who started out like any other native child on "Dick and Jane" series of reading in a BIA school. As it happily ended this young woman went on through school and graduated from the University of Alaska. But she was "exceptional."

I am happy to add that there are a few natives—Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos—who are "exceptional" and graduates of higher schools of learning. But there are still too few of such.

As I see it, the BIA is still striving to provide the modern means of education for all natives. But the culmination of modern education can happen only when a student takes the initiative, and takes the full advantage of what is being offered.

Percy Ipalook, Sr.

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Juneau Area Office
P.O. Box 3-8000
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 13, 1968

Dear Mr. Rock:

I am writing this letter to express my appreciation to you for being an open-minded editorial writer. You are, no doubt, aware of the fact that I am leaving Alaska and will be assigned to the BIA offices in Washington, D. C.

Your ability to express the views of the Natives has been outstanding and your fairness in reaching judgments has been most appreciated by myself. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has made many mistakes and in all probability will make more mistakes, but I assure you that they were done in good conscience and in an attempt to better the lives of the Native people. It is only through media such as you are responsible for that both sides of issues can be placed before the public.

My association with you personally as well as from a business standpoint has

ONE VIEW

By BYRON MALLOTT
Yakutat, Alaska

POINTS TO PONDER:

"A people can be confronted by more difficult, critical and fundamental decision than to contemplate the complete abandonment of its native land.

"No people may hope to retain that vitality which alone can preserve their essential qualities as a people once their development has become totally dependent upon a borrowed culture.

"The Indians being the prior occupants, possess the right of the soil. It cannot be taken from them unless by their free consent, or by the right of conquest in case of a just war.

"To dispossess them on any other principle would be a gross violation of the fundamental laws of nature, and of that distributive justice which is the glory of a nation...

"The principle of the Indian right to the lands they possess being thus conceded, the dignity and interest of this nation will be advanced by making it the basis of the future administration of justice toward the Indian tribes." (Secretary of War, Henry Knox, 1789 report to President George Washington on Indian rights.)

The statements quoted above are from Dale Van Every's history of the American Indian, DISINTERITED. Subtitled "The Lost Birthright of the American Indian," Disinherited is a well documented, moving account of some of the least known and shameful episodes in American history.

Available in hard and paperback, I recommend this book to all Tundra Times readers. Indeed for anyone who is to gain a balanced view of the history of this nation, it is a required reading.

A comment on testimony presented during hearings on the State Land Claims bill HB672 before Representative Carl Moses, House Resources Committee.

House minority leader, Jalmur Kerttula, in his favorable testimony on HB672 stated that he was not in full agreement with the provision in the bill that required 75 per cent of royalty moneys be spent on capital and physical improvements and other similar public purposes.

Kerttula felt that some of the real problems in the native areas were of a social and cultural nature therefore making human resource development as great a need as economic or physical development.

I agree. There is no question that physical improvements and economic development are vitally needed if our rural communities are to develop properly. However, the human resource development problems of our communities must be solved as well; and jobs, playgrounds, community halls, new fire engines, streets, etc. are not the total answer to this problem.

Many people scoff at their "textbook theories and ivory tower pronouncements," but the social scientists, anthropologists, psychologists and others who study various aspects of human behavior, development and relationships are as necessary to the human resource development problem as are laborers, contractors, painters, and foremen to physical and economic development.

Agriculture Dept. Cuts Off Funds For Alaska's Food Stamp Program

JUNEAU—Gov. Walter J. Hickel accused the federal government of being "either unaware—or uncaring—about Alaska's unique problems," as he disclosed that the U. S. Department of Agriculture now says it "no longer has funds" to expand Alaska's Food Stamp program for the current fiscal year.

Hickel's sharp words were prompted, he said, "because this is apparently only the latest blow from the federal government in the way of budget cuts."

In recent weeks, federal bean a satisfaction to me during my tenure in Alaska. I wish you the best of success in carrying the story to the people and, more especially, to the Natives. Thank you for everything.

Sincerely yours,
Owen D. Morken
Area Director

cuts in Alaska's allotments in highway funds and funds for educational programs also have been announced.

The Alaska Legislature last week approved a \$50,000 appropriation to expand the Food Stamp program "on the understanding," Hickel said, "that the Department of Agriculture had funds to redeem the stamps.

"The announcement means the department will withhold redemption."

The Governor added, "This federal action will certainly create a hardship on the low

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