

Letters to the Editor

'Authority' on Native People Discredited

Arctic Slope Native Association
Affiliate of AFN
P.O. Box 486
Barrow, Alaska
Nov. 17, 1969

Dear Mr. Rock:

Have been keeping up with the so-called views and analysis of the Native Land Claims bill referred to as the Goldberg Bill by the so-called authority on Natives and the public land laws of the State of Alaska, Mr. W.C. Arnold.

I think Howard, if anyone is to be tabbed an authority on Natives, there should be connected with it a long standing position of having lived with the Native people and learning of their environment, political and economic needs, as well as sharing in their tribulations and advancement of the Native people.

Just because Mr. Arnold has had a long standing in the legal profession does not by any means make him an authority on the Native people.

As a matter of fact I think Mr. Rock, the people should be told who Mr. Arnold is. I think somebody that knows him should tell the people, that he has fought Statehood in the early stages of the fight that he has been the driving force behind the efforts to retain the fish traps, why, because his clients were the big fish industry and in order to retain his standing economically, he fought the efforts to abolish the fish traps.

One does not become an authority merely by watching and prosecuting cases against certain

people.

How long has Mr. Arnold lived in the villages? How many Native clients has Mr. Arnold. Why is he recognized as an authority on Natives of Alaska? Why is he writing on the Native Land Claims bill today? I'll tell you why and how?

Mr. Arnold has probably never, by choice, lived in any village of Alaska, with the Native people. . . He has no Native clients to speak of that he has been protecting as a lawyer. . . He is recognized as an authority because no other person is as crazy as he is and no one in his right mind would speak out against the Native people, and pin everything down against them, in their land claims. Mr. Arnold is getting old, and has no political ambition for any office and can afford to say any damned thing he wants about the Native people. In other words he doesn't give a damn.

For the press to use a man like him and advance an ill feeling against the Native people is very fitting to the description the Congressman from Oklahoma made of the Anchorage Times.

I think it's downright unfair and perhaps libelous. The Native Claim bill which he refers to is not a Goldberg Bill. In all of our deliberations to determine what we, the Natives should ask for, from the Congress, we have not had the presence of Mr. Goldberg.

Also Mr. Arnold apparently is not aware of, or is ignoring the overall effect of the settlement on the State of Alaska.

It's going to have an effect like you haven't seen before. It's going to put money in the villages where the State and the Federal Government have failed miserably to do.

If we are going to have an

analysis of the Bill, and it's overall effect on the State, let us have an honest man do for us, and not a person who has a long history of making money off people, legally or otherwise, and who has an interest in people rather than money, for the sake of money.

Eben Hopson

'That's My Kid Brother'

P.O. Box 58
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
November 14, 1969

Letter to the Editor
TUNDRA TIMES
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Howard:

Pleasantly, and not surprisingly, I read with pride the Tundra Times (Nov. 7) account of retiring BIA teacher, Fred K. Ipalook, my kid brother. He may be mature in experience and service, but whenever I had a chance to do so I introduce him with "Meet my kid brother, Fred."

I do this for the simple reason that he is, and perhaps will always be, four years younger than I. Needless to say, it is gratifying to note that nearly the whole village of Barrow turned out to honor this man on his retirement from active teaching.

Perhaps one of the best complements told me on Fred was by an Eskimo lady from Barrow. She said, "When we were small girls we saw Fred playing on the organ each Sunday in Church services. Then our daughters came and saw him still playing in church. Then in time our granddaughters came along and still see the same man at the same organ."

Dedication? That is my kid brother all the way through.

Sincerely,
Percy Ipalook, Sr.

Nix on Pioneer Home at Nome

Box 1514
Juneau, Alaska 99801
November 16, 1969

Dear Editor:

In the November 7, 1969, edition of the Tundra Times I read about Representative Pollock's proposal to have the Bureau of Indian Affairs build a Pioneers Home for Natives in western Alaska. What nonsense! Why a Native Pioneer Home? Why not a Pioneer Home for ALL Alaskans located in western Alaska?

Also, why give a new project to the BIA? I thought the BIA functions were to be phased out, not perpetuated with new projects. To me Mr. Pollock's idea is nothing more than a proposal for continued paternalism and its effect would be to further widen the gap of understanding between the Native and non-native people of Alaska.

An Alaskan Pioneers Home

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in western Alaska—YES. A Native Pioneers Home built by the BIA, NO.

Sincerely,
Don Kemp

Stickman Wants Pioneer Home At Nulato

Nulato, Alaska
November 17, 1969

Dear Mr. Howard Rock. Dear Sir:

I just wanted to let you know that I'm going to keep writing to you while I have a little lead left in my pencil, till we get our land settlement.

It's 40 below today and there is not one floor that's insulated here in the village. We bank around our houses with mud every fall. In 40 below, we have to haul wood every other day to live. Green wood for Heather stove and the next day dry wood for the cook stove. You can buy windows or doors, insulation or nothing.

This would be the ideal place for a Pioneer's Home. In the interior lot of fish year round and moose is getting to be public nuisance around here. I wouldn't like to live in Nome because there is no timber. Too open for wind, and no shelter if a man wants to take a spell.

Don't forget there is a lot of old people on the Yukon River that had a tough life like myself. Even right now I have a hell of a time and I'll be worse three years from now. I need a cook, laundry, keep house, etc.

Send Tundra Times to Washington, D.C. so they know what kind of living we have, and send me 10 extra copies here and I'll sell it for me or you.

—Fred Stickman, Sr.