

Letters to the Tundra Times

Reader starts airport fund

February 17, 1980

Dear Editor:

I am greatly touched by Feb. 6, 1980 article "Neglect takes toll in Chevak".

Up to this point I have been trying to put my feeling, a heavy heartedness, into perspective by saying to myself that it's all going to work out.

I feel for the loss that Chevak experienced. Although it wasn't a direct crash; it was a loss due to lack of heat in the airport's terminal; and to top it off, the place was locked! No one cared to maintain the place for even warmth! As a result a patient had to sit outside in windy and snow blowing weather.

Well, who could hold a trust fund for Chevak for a better airport? Could Tundra Times do it? Or find someone or an organization to hold an amount of money for Chevak? Or is the possibility of sending a few dollars to the village council for improvement or any new equipment that can be bought by and for them open?

Readers, just how many are there? Anywhere from 2-20,000. This is Readers of Tundra Times. What is two dollars or even five dollars to go for Chevak's equipment? Or even "where are those representatives?"

Enclosed is five dollars for Chevak's airport.

Sincerely,
A. Tooyak, Jr.
Pt. Hope, AK 99766

Senator explains fuel loan vote

Alaska State Legislature
Sen. Terry Stimson
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
February 14, 1980

Dear Editor:

On January 23rd of this year the Senate unanimously passed by voice vote, HCS for SB 125; a bill making a special appropriation for an emergency fuel supply assistance program for Alaska villages.

There have been many questions raised as to how I could support an appropriation of 1 1/2 million dollars: All things considered, my reasons are as follows:

1. Many of the Native villages at this time are without fuel oil. This is due, in part, by rivers freezing up due to abnormally cold winters hence, barges were unable to deliver their goods. Also, due to the distance and location of some of these villages they (the villages) are required to order their winter fuel supplies in May with hopes of receiving them by October. Taking this into consideration along with the sky-rocketing price of oil and

the devaluation of the American dollar, what was delivered in October was considerably less than what was ordered in May!

2. The majority of fuel that is purchased by these outlying villages is not used for the purpose of heating homes rather, it is used for supplying electricity within the villages and heating schools...with no fuel, there's no electricity and as a result it's the schools and students that indirectly suffer the consequences.

3. As stated in No. 1, many of the villages are without fuel. With diesel fuel at \$196.00 a barrel and the fact that fuel must be delivered by means of aircraft, the cost of doing business is increased.

It could be understood that these monies are to be distributed in the form of loans, through Rural Cap, to the villages. With the excellent track record of the villages repaying loans, I had no problem supporting this piece of legislation.

Sincerely,
Terry Stimson
State Senator
District E

Interior responds to court bias charges

U.S. Dept. of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20245

Ms. Eva M. Heffle, Sr.
Box 80740
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Ms. Heffle:

Assistant Secretary, Forrest Gerard - Indian Affairs' Office has asked us to respond to the petition signed by you and various members of the Alaska Native Community, alleging that the Alaska Criminal Justice System discriminates against Alaska Native people and violates their civil rights.

We understand that data has been gathered to illustrate the fact that Native Alaskans are not the recipients of equal justice in the Alaska criminal justice system. Because of this, we have taken the liberty of forwarding the petition to the Department of Justice, Office of Indian Civil Rights, with the request that they contact State authorities to ascertain whether or not Native Alaskans are the victims of discrimination and to take whatever steps are necessary to stop this type of practice.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, does not have the authority to revoke the State of Alaska's criminal jurisdiction over Native Alaskans. The Congress of the United States is the only body that can pass legislation to revert jurisdiction to the Federal government from the State of Alaska.

The State of Alaska has a Judicial Council which is in the process of evaluating the sentencing procedures of the State courts. Michael Rubenstein, Executive Director, has informed us that a special minority committee has been organized to study the problem and will make recommendations for changes in the procedures and practices. He will forward a copy of your petition to this group.

For your information, his address is:

Michael Rubenstein,
Executive Director
Judicial Council
420 L Street, Suite 302
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907/279-2526 or
274-8611

In this connection, we believe that you and members of your group should make an effort to contact members of your Congressional delegation and impress on them the gravity of the situation as it relates to discrimination against Native Alaskans.

As we cannot respond individually to each person who signed the petition, we are asking you, as the first person who signed, to bring this letter to the attention of the person(s) who drew up the petition so he or she can advise the other members.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
John I. Geary
Acting Director
Office of Indian Services

Stockholder vetoes merger

Director
Securities and
Exchange Commission

Dear Sir:

This letter is in regards to the merging of village corporations (formed under ANCSA) with Regional Corporation NANA.

I am a stockholder with NANA and (KIC) Kotzebue Village Corporation. KIC is short for Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation. I am also custodian of my children, Sharon, Robert, Franklin, Douglas Heffle and their stock in the above named Corporations.

I am currently riding on the horns of a dilemma! We had a stockholders meeting to decide and vote for merging with NANA and, Kotzebue voted NO! We were informed then that our stock would be issued in a short time. This was in 1976.

Here it is 1980 and still no stock issued. Last year (1979) we were told (again) that stock would be issued in 6 months or less. It is now almost 1 year, also NANA is currently distributing solicitations for merging with KIC. Why? We already voted NO! and we derive nothing from NANA with the merger.

Would you advise what steps are necessary to have our stock issued in NANA and KIC immediately and stop this continued harassment to force us to merge with NANA.

If something isn't done right away I will be forced to initiate a class action suit against NANA and its board of directors.

Your immediate attention and answer to my letter is of the essence. Please respond!

Respectfully Yours,
Eva M. Heffle

cc: Tundra Times