

letters

Upgrade UA administrator

Box 347
Bethel, Alaska 99559
August 14, 1978

Dr. Hugh Fate
President
University of Alaska Board of Regents
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Dr. Fate:

The Alaska Federation of Natives, Alaska Native Foundation and concerned Alaska Native Leaders orchestrated with the University of Alaska a division called Rural Education Affairs, which included a Vice President's office, to activate a greater involvement of Alaska Natives in delivering higher educational opportunities to rural Alaska.

The University of Alaska, reacting to this mandate from the Alaska Native community, established the Rural Education Affairs division to meet the requests voiced by the Alaska Natives. Under pressure from certain Alaska Native leaders, the University hired a vice president with no higher education academic credentials or strong administrative experience. As a result, the vice president was eventually reassigned within the system and the vice president's position and office was abolished.

As you are aware, the University's own leadership collapsed and acting administrators were assigned to policy making positions. President Hiatt, before he was also reassigned, bowing to pressure from the community colleges and its union, reorganized the University once again and effectively eliminated the Rural Education Affairs and the vice president's office.

By doing this, President Hiatt squelched the high level voice the Alaska Natives had in the University system. This voice of leadership in the University system should not have been reclassified and dropped to a low level office position within the University's community college division.

I would like to encourage the Board of Regents to reconsider their previous action in regards to eliminating the Vice President for Rural Education Affairs position. I realize the present REA office is being organized with the new Chancellor for Community Colleges. This I feel is not adequate, compared to the position the Vice President's office held in the University system.

The Board of Regents should consider establishing a high level office concerned with higher education issues as they affect the Alaska Native. I would encourage you as the President of the University of Alaska Board of Regents, to re-establish such a position within the University system.

Sincerely,
Fred Bigjim

cc: Tundra Times

Chevak phone service

RCA Alascom
Pouch 6607
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
August 23, 1978

Mr. Frank Chayalkin, Administrator, Chevak City Council
Chevak, Alaska 99563

Dear Mr. Chayalkin:

In response to your letter, a review of the service at Chevak has been completed. Please excuse the delay in our response.

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When RCA Alascom purchased the government operated ACS System in 1970, part of our purchase proposal was to provide villages in Alaska with dial telephone service to replace the antiquated push to talk radios in use at that time. In order to meet this immediate need RCA Alascom invested over \$6 million establishing dial telephone service in over 92 villages including Chevak.

Subsequently, improved technology provided the availability of small earth stations of greater reliability and economic feasibility. Since the advent of the small earth station program, RCA Alascom has placed small earth stations at 39 villages which were served by VHF IMTS tape systems. There are now 107 villages being provided dial telephone service via small earth stations, plus 55 villages receiving service via the IMTS VHF systems.

When RCA Alascom turned up the communications system in the Bethel area in 1972-73, the village of Chevak, through the Cape Romanzof trapo site, shared three telephone channels with twelve other villages.

When Phase III of the hundred small earth station program was implemented in 1977-78, nine villages were deloaded from the three channels that Chevak had previously shared with 12 other villages. This means that today Chevak is now sharing 3 telephone channels with 3 other villages, making their ability to secure a telephone channel much easier. At the time of your letter there was a problem with one of the channels which has since been repaired.

The future communications plan for Chevak are: a) the Cape Romanzof trapo site will be replaced with a mid-route earth station in late 1978, b) the telephone at Chevak will have a dedicated channel into the Cape Romanzof earth station which means the telephone channel into Chevak will be exclusively for Chevak.

Although Chevak has had much better communications service since the deloading of the nine villages from the 3 channels Chevak has had some impaired communications due to one or possibly two channels not being in proper working condition. However, there have been no total outages in the last year other than a disconnect for nonpayment by General Telephone.

As to the payment requested for power, space, etc., there is a signed agreement between the Chevak Village Council and RCA Alascom in which the Village Council agrees to provide, at no

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cost to RCA, the necessary power and space for this service. The tariff offering for this service requires the customer to provide space, power and an attendant. Therefore, the Company cannot pay the bill you submitted.

The Company appreciates the problems enumerated in your letter and will continue to do its utmost to maintain your telephone. As you are aware, technicians have been in your village working on the problem several times in the last two months.

Please keep us informed of any further problems if they develop and the Company will correct them as soon as possible.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me directly.

Very truly yours,

Bert Cambell
Community Affairs Rep.

cc: Tundra Times

13th's quest for land

August 24, 1978

Dear Editor:

We wish to compliment you and the Tundra Times and all of its employees and contributors for the fine "Second Annual Summer Edition" we recently received. We are all proud of the excellent coverage you afford concerning Native affairs. Although the majority of our shareholders reside outside of the State of Alaska out lives are still closely connected with our heritage and first love.

As you know we have introduced a bill in Congress, H.R. 12529, to rectify the injustice that was done to our shareholders when the ANSCA was passed in that it failed to provide a share of our land to our shareholders. We know that you support Native causes as is proper and here again we are hopeful that you will support our position as a fair and just solution to a difficult problem. We love our land as I'm sur all Natives do but unless we get this bill or some kind of legislation moved along through the legislative process we may be a long time correcting this injustice.

Again may I thank you for whatever support you are able to give the 13th in our quest for land.

In Brotherhood,
Billy B. Johnson
Chairman, Land Committee
The 13th Regional Corporation