

# ***Nunapitchuk Writes to Hickel***

Nunapitchuk, Alaska 99641  
December 29, 1969

Hon. Walter J. Hickel  
Secretary of Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Hickel:

Our forefathers were living in this land from ages unknown. When they died they were buried into this land and their blood seeped into the land. We were born to this with nothing. When your forefathers were living on their land they probably had owned property and the property was undoubtedly passed down to you. We did not have any property handed down to us from our forefathers. From this land we have made our daily livelihood. We are not working for wages in dollars each day for our daily bread.

When the Russians claimed that they have discovered Alaska there were people living on this land striving to live off the land. Then the U.S. bought Alaska the same people were living on this land striving to get their food off the land, as it is today. Therefore, we do not wish that the

land be taken away from us and sold to private individuals or organizations thereby limiting or restricting our major source of living. Approximately 10 per cent of our food is bought from the stores. Ninety per cent comes from the land.

When the Pilgrims landed in America they shouted joyously that they have discovered the land and thanked God. They vowed to make it a land of the free. Later, the white man pushed the Indians back and took their hunting grounds. Are you in a process of doing the same thing to us?

Your law says no one can enter a locked door. Are you about to break the lock on our hunting grounds and take it? How we have tried to keep our land for ourselves because it is our major source of food. And we consider our efforts as our lock to our hunting grounds. When you run out of cash in your pocket you run to your bank to get moeny for your food. We run to our land to get our food.

Your's truly,  
Nunapitchuk Village Council