

LETTERS to EDITOR

(Continued from page 2)

The administration, since they say they have the prerogative, decided for Kongiganak that they did not need her any longer and said NO. This, and I say this with a straight face, I do not see as helping the Village of Kongiganak. This is turning off a self determined village.

I wonder if the Administration staff spend sleepless nights being bothered by their conscience for deciding for a village and a people they do not know from night to day. The story goes on. The actions and deliberations of the program reflect upon its sponsor. Governor Miller, is this the kind of program you advocate?

After numerous letters from the village and others, Mr. William Allen, VISTA Alaska Coordinator, came to the village on October 1 to make his decision whether the village of Kongiganak needed a volunteer. After two hours in the village he decided that the village does need Blanche Andrews. I am sure Mr. Allen did not learn in two hours about whether they needed her or not. In any case, I was happy he granted the village's wish because, after all, the village itself is the best judge and know their needs. And I assure you there are not very many villages who ask the retention of their volunteers. In many cases the village does not care less, and some villages are often happy to see the volunteers leave.

This, "I don't care less," attitude is obviously based on a number of reasons:

1. The volunteer does not care.
2. The volunteer does not have support and guidance.
3. The volunteer does not know what VISTA is.
4. The village has a vague understanding of the Program.
5. The village has no power in deciding who their volunteer will be and how long he stays in the village, etc., etc.

Yes, I think the VISTA Program is a disgrace and insult, a disgrace to your administration and should be changed immediately.

In my opinion, if the VISTA Program is going to be a program to help the people help themselves, it has to have local control. With local people being affected by the program having power to train, select, and administer the program.

You can probably understand that an Eskimo from Nunapitchuk would not accomplish anything in California if he went there as a VISTA Volunteer. This Eskimo may accomplish a little if he has the support and backing of the people in that community he serves, also from the administration. You can also understand that the people there in California would not support him unless the people in California understand the program and have the power to determine all policy decisions of the program. Yes! It is all understandable.

We all know actions speak louder than words, like money speaks louder than words too many times. Yes! We who have no dollars have no voice and even when we do speak we are not heard.

In conclusion, I request your assistance in turning over the administration of the program to the local people as quickly as possible. The local people know their needs and problems and, after all, you all say the villages are unique.

Sincerely yours,
Margaret Nick

cc: Tundra Times, Senator Mike Gravel; Senator Ted Stevens; Congressman Howard Pollock; Senator Ted Kennedy.

Indian Health Fund

The Association on American Indian Affairs called on President Richard M. Nixon to order the release of the \$2 million supplemental appropriation for the Indian Health Service.

The monies, which were voted by Congress, have been impounded by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The AAIA stressed the urgent need for these funds in order to continue the essential work of the Indian Health Service among the Indian population, whose health is currently in serious jeopardy.

In a joint letter to President Nixon, Roger C. Ernst, President of the AAIA and Dr. Carl Muschenheim, Chairman of AAIA's National Committee on Indian Health stated that health conditions among Indians are today the worst for any group in the nation.

"Many Indian hospitals in the United States lack personnel and facilities to such an extent that the survival of Indian patients is severely jeopardized," the letter continued.

Newspaper Is Growing

Tundra Times is now printing 3,500 copies weekly showing trend of growing at a faster rate ever since its first publication on October 1, 1962.

Native subscribers within the state indicate the growing interest in the native newspaper.

Stickman

(Continued from page 1)

"I'd like to know how someone one thousand miles away could freeze our land where we lived for century," he said. "That's the reason I want to run. Someone got to talk for this Yukon River in the interior."

Fred concluded: "I got 33 votes to start with—that's including my vote."

Boy Scout ...

(Continued from page 1)

will present their host with a bound report of Scouting's progress in Boypower '76, the long-range plan attempting to bring the advantages of Scouting to all boys regardless of race, creed, or economic status.

Several imaginative features are included in the program, which began last year, to make Scouting more relevant to the needs and concerns of today's youth. The slogan of the Boypower '76 program is America's Manpower begins with Boypower.

By 1976 the BSA plans to reach one in every three boys of Scouting age, instead of one in four boys who are now Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, or Explorers.

Luther has been in Scouting 7 years, starting as a Cub Scout. Presently he is a member of Boy Scout Troop 58, sponsored by the Barrow Lions Club. In his troop he is now the junior assistant Scoutmaster and has held several other leadership positions during his 4 years as a Boy Scout.

One of the highlights of his Scouting experiences was attending the 7th National Jamboree, held last summer at Farragut State Park, Idaho.

He is a member of the Utkeagvik Presbyterian Church in Barrow, and is involved in the church's youth group.

As a Barrow Junior High School student in the 8th grade, Luther has the honor of being the youngest Scout to earn a place on the Report to the Nation team.

In school he is the choir treasurer, a member of the student council, and the Jaycees Youth Club.

The AAIA pointed out that the Indian Health Service attempts to operate its direct patient care program with 164 employees per 100 average daily patients (rather than 250 per 100 average daily patients which is required by good practice) and 47.8 employees per 100,000 outpatient visits (rather than 120 employees per 100,000 outpatients required.)

An epidemic of viral pneumonia in the pediatrics ward of the Choctaw Indian hospital in 1968 was cited as an example of the effect of personnel and facilities shortages in the Indian health program.

Mr. Ernst and Dr. Muschenheim added that the immunizations to 400 Indian students at the Sequoyah Indian School were discontinued due to a shortage of supplies.

"How tragic it will be," they said, if Indian disease rates, which have been declining nationally since the Public Health Service undertook this program, should begin to rise once again."

There is also growing interest outside of the state and from foreign countries.

Reflecting the steady increase in circulation, mail coming in to the newspaper has also greatly increased.

ASNA Poses ...

(Continued from page 1)

As one of the 12 recognized regional native associations in Alaska, the organization called for adequate money for the Rural Affairs Agency to pursue the Land Claims Legislation, upgrading of the Magistrate court, development and funding of a regional high school program, satellite communications in rural areas, support of the 2 per cent overriding royalty on mineral leases called for by the AFN, and adoption of a "no objection" position in the AFN's request for 40 million acres.

The Arctic Slope Native Association is a member association of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Some of the other recommendations were as follows:

Barrow—support and fund a Citizen's Advisory Juvenile Committee. Provide the means to finance an airport facility.

Wainwright—provide a new post office building. Urge the Alaska State Housing Authority to include Wainwright in the 1970 program for low-income housing.

Barter Island—Secure adequate electricity through the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative. Improve the water supply. Seek to include Barter Island in the 1970 program for low-income housing. Construct a community hall and a new post office building.

Anaktuvuk Pass—Urge AVEC to supply Anaktuvuk Pass with electricity. Seek to include the village in the 1970 program for low-income housing. Provide transportation for hauling wood for fuel or provide adequate fuel oil for the village "for partial consideration of utilizing their land for the "Hickel Highway."

Point Hope—Request will be submitted in the future.

The above includes only a major portion of the recommendations submitted to the Governor, the president of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Chairmen of the Senate and House Finance Committees and legislators from the Northwest District, Senator Robert R. Blodgett and Representative William Hensley.

AFN and RurALCAP Ask VISTA Probe

Recently, the VISTA Program in the State of Alaska has come under increasing criticism from both Native and non-Natives. The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP, Inc.), which represents 51 villages in the Bethel area, passed a resolution at their last meeting requesting that OEO fund AVCP directly for the operation of the VISTA Program.

The AVCP resolution stipulated that no more volunteers would be accepted in the area unless there was local control over the program.

At the last Board of Directors meeting of the Alaska Federation of Natives, a resolution was passed asking for State and federal

Banquet Theme

Roland J. Parish, an Eskimo, submitted a slogan for the theme of the Tundra Times 8th anniversary banquet to be held on October 3, 1970 in Fairbanks.

The theme reads, "Global Communications—The Language of the Heart."

The theme of the October banquet will be based on communications and our readers, both native and non-native, are asked to submit theme topics to the Tundra Times, Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

The board of directors of the Tundra Times will act as judges and the winning theme will be awarded two banquet tickets to the newspaper's anniversary dinner.

The theme contest ends March 1.

Banquet tickets will probably again be \$25 per couple and \$15 single as they were at the Anchorage banquet last October. The board will make the final decision in the near future.

Carr Warms Up for Race

(Continued from page 1)

it does not exist, and this attitude and neglect will cause the rural areas to vote Democratic."

Rural Alaska has a right to select the person it thinks is best, he continued, and, if they support that person, they will affect the outcome of the primary and of the general election.

Unlike Miller, Carr has voiced strong support for the Alaska Federation of Natives' land claims position.

"I think that the state government should be supporting the wishes and desires of the people who live here," he stressed, and should be actively working for the passage of the AFN bill.

The state administration should actually send representatives to Washington to lobby for the bill, he added.

Discussing a recent eight-day trip to Nome, Kotzebue, and Bethel, Carr said the visits were to give him an opportunity to meet with the people, discuss their problems, and hear their suggestions on what the state can do to improve their living conditions.

Although the supermarket owner has lived in Alaska 20 years, most of his time has been spent in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Kenai.

Another eight-day trip is planned for the villages of Southeastern Alaska in February.

On his recent trip, Carr explained that he met with leaders in the villages and as many others as possible.

"I concentrated on the fact that I was there to listen and learn something about the problems," he stressed.

And, he continued, "I came to the conclusion that the rural areas of Alaska have been much

investigation of the VISTA Program. This same resolution was passed by the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. Executive Committee.

Byron Mallott, Executive Director of RurALCAP, and Alfred R. Ketzler, Director of the AFN, are both actively attempting to obtain an impartial state and federal investigation of the VISTA Program.

Eight VISTA volunteers have produced a position paper in which they charge the State of Alaska, the sponsor of the program, with fiscal and programmatic mismanagement.

The volunteers base their charges on the State's non-payment of bills in rural Alaska for a period of six to seven months, and the firing of VISTA volunteers and leaders, and a supervisor who were trying to make some significant changes in the program.

The volunteers asked for a federal and state investigation of the program, reinstatement of the volunteers who have been terminated, a new sponsor for the VISTA Program in Alaska, and formulation of immediate plans for local Native control of the program.

Murder

(Continued from page 1)

that the weapons of the three murder victims were taken by the murderer who then drove away.

The bodies of the three Eskimo victims are now in Anchorage where an autopsy is being conducted. The weapons are to be given routine ballistics tests to try to find out if any of them was the murder weapon.

neglected. It appears that a great number of things can be done to increase the economic income and decrease the cost of living in the villages."

Carr admitted that he was "pretty shocked" by the poor health facilities, housing, school systems, and the high cost of living in rural Alaska.

But, he said, "I was also pleased and surprised with the people I met. I've never seen happier people."

"It's hard to understand," he continued, "how they can have so many problems and still have time to be so happy."

Expressing strong feelings that something must be done for rural Alaska, Carr said that he is developing programs to tackle the problems there.

"Alaska has the financial capabilities and the obligation to solve them."

To make sure that programs are modified to meet the local needs of a specific area, Carr continued, a lot of them must be delegated to the regional level.

Rather than establishing regional boroughs and then delegating such programs to them, Carr seemed to feel that it might be better to work through established channels, such as the native organizations already in existence.

Turning briefly to his statewide campaign, Carr said that he would try to divide his time equally between the cities and the villages.

"I will develop a plan for the entire state recognizing the special needs of the rural areas."

He concluded that he would not campaign against Egan or Miller but would campaign on a positive approach of what is good for all of Alaska.