

# letters...

## Bush Caucus criticism

### uncalled for

Rep. Nels Anderson, Jr.  
Dillingham, Alaska

June 20, 1977

Rep. Hugh Malone  
Speaker of the House  
Box 9  
Kenai, Alaska 99611

Dear Mr. Speaker;

I have been reading the Southeast Alaska Empire with great interest and disappointment. As a member of the Democratic Caucus I can find no fault with the Bush Caucus lawmakers.

Your criticism of the Bush Caucus is uncalled for since you were told by several Bush members what their priorities were. Their political deals were forged by your continuous resistance to calls for help. The Workman's Comp. bill was a case in point.

Rep. Osterback told you that Workman's Comp. was the Bush's highest priority. I believe I told you in a meeting with Reps. Schaeffer, Cowper, Gardiner, Gruening, and Miller that we wanted Workman's Comp. HB 212 and Senate Bill 250. I had the impression that you were in agreement with our request for assistance. This understanding turned into a double-cross.

My patience with you has not yet run out. I've got a lot more left so your comments regarding coalition are taken with a grain of salt. I certainly hope that you will not bolt the Democratic party because of the Bush Caucus. The Bush constantly resisted all efforts to form a coalition. I take personal credit for stopping a coalition last year.

Liberal-urban Democrats and Bush Democrats agree that you and your close-mouthed group played all your cards too close to the chest. You never gave any of us loyal Democrats a chance to feel as though we were a part of the leadership. Mr. Bradner had a good system of bringing in all Democrats of different views into the fold of policy development. I'm afraid your penchant for secrecy alienated many fine Democrats.

Reciprocity is a term that you fail to understand. Houghten Mifflin's Dictionary defines reciprocity as a "mutual or cooperative interchange of or privilege." I can't say that you ever gave us a chance to fully discuss your priorities nor did you give the Bush an opportunity to help you achieve any of your unknown goals. Reciprocity as you refer to it is a one way street. In other words, you scratch my back, but I'll forget to scratch yours.

Your reference to yourself as a member of the Democratic Caucus excludes rural legislators. You stated that "our caucus have kind of reached the limits of what we are willing to put up with." (Emphasis added). You seem to have forgotten that there are five rural legislators that are a part of our Democratic Caucus. I hope that you will find a way to erase your regional basis.

Finally, I feel as though you can help to heal the wounds that you have opened to the public. It is unfortunate that you felt compelled to publically comment on an issue that requires due deliberation in Caucus. I am willing to discuss the above issues and others that you will not form a co-

alition with dissident Democrats and Republicans.

If you continue to make irresponsible statements to the press without first discussing your complaints with the Bush, I believe you will unintentionally drive the rural community away from the Democratic party. This would be an unhealthy political occurrence for you to be remembered for. We in rural Alaska have been loyal Democrats for many years. Our patience is infinite so please call on us so that we can help you lead our party on the House side.

Very sincerely yours,

Nels. A. Anderson  
Representative, Dillingham

cc: Tundra Times

## Our land is our life

Raymond Paneak  
Anaktuvuk Pass  
Ak. 99721

June 24, 1977

Tundra Times  
410 Second Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Dear Sir;

Please print this in your paper.

The land is where living comes from. No matter where we are, we make our living from the land. In villages we mostly get our food from the land. We get animals and birds or we will go hungry.

The State of Alaska should think of what each village needs, in each area for their use of land, hunting and fishing.

Each village knows what their need is and they know what they are going to hunt. There are two seasons villages mostly hunting in spring and in the fall. (Also villages know the Game they are going to hunt. And which one they are going to get male or female

In villages we have a hard time, mostly when the Game departments limit hunting or when they close the hunting.

The licenses are going up and less hunting is permitted and fish and game is selling wolf hide. The \$25 licenses in villages is a little high when you try to make a living from the land and animals.

This means welfare from state and federal government unemployment is here. Food prices is going up.

Sincerely,

Raymond Paneak

## Hammond questioned about Natives

c/o Rogers Electric  
ACI/BP Project  
Drawer 4JJ  
Anchorage, Alaska 99509

June 13, 1977

Gov. Jay Hammond  
State of Alaska  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Gov. Hammond;

Do you believe that Alaska's Native people as a class, are disloyal, untrustworthy and violent by nature? Do you believe that Natives are conspiring and forming terrorist bands in order to disrupt the pipeline? Is it possible that you seriously believe that some part of such preposterous allegations could be true?

Let's hope you don't but a

substantial part of Alaska's public may think you do. The recent spate of "scare" headlines and articles in this state's press to the effect that Natives are about to bomb or hold for ransom the pipeline--may be attributed to you and your government. When those infantile notions were presented to a legislative committee of the state government, no responsible person from your office stepped forward to question their validity. Those statements were accepted into the record and later resurrected as fact by another committee in far away Washington. Your silence before condoned; your silence now will verify.

Those outrageous, vicious and dangerous statements should be immediately refuted. It is appalling that senior officials charged with enforcing our state's laws equitably may harbor such virulent attitudes and then solemnly inject them into the records of a public tribune where they fester and evolve into facts. It is one thing for an ordinary layman, in a barroom or some such place to voice his wildest most prejudicial racial imaginings, it is quite another for a public official to do so before so-called responsible leaders. That sort of behavior borders on paranoia, and one can only surmise that a screening process somewhere has broken down.

To further refute those preposterous charges mentioned above, I would point out that

—I am a Native

—My loyalty to the State and is impeccable and I can prove it.

—I am familiar with most of of the Native communities in Alaska and have met people and their leaders, and at no time was there even hint of treasonable or terrorist behavior among the young or old.

—Within the past three years I have worked as an electrician along the pipeline and on the Slope--no where was there even an indication of ideological extremism among Native workers.

As a citizen I am nauseated, angered and insulted not only with the phony allegations but also with the governments lack of response. Surely we have better things to do than to add racial and ethnic frictions to those of sectionalism and ideology in this state.

Sincerely,

Lou Jacquot