

Reader disagrees with leaders

To the Editor:

This is to respond to statements made in your front page article entitled "Leaders Respond to Decisions Made at AFN Convention" in your 4/8/85 issue. Statements made by Native "leadership" that the upcoming report of the Alaska Native Review Commission is not necessary and not essential for determining what direction we Natives take clearly reveal the "leadership's" true nature.

By making such statements, our "leadership" is saying that 1,450 testimonies exhaustively collected by Justice Thomas Berger from Natives in some 60

communities in Alaska should be totally disregarded as unnecessary and unessential in planning for our collective future. There are many, many concerned Alaska Natives who await Mr. Berger's report and the recommendations it will make. These recommendations will stem directly from the testimony of local people who were invited to speak and who hold much hope that the report will be instrumental in shaping a secure future for us.

I am grateful for Mr. Berger's capacity to hear the people. Anyone of influence in the Native community should yield to this

report. It will reflect the voices of the people themselves who have tremendous insight into the nature of the problems, who know what they want their future to look like.

Maximum, permanent protections of our land base and of our right to govern ourselves through our Native political institutions should be the only standard we set for ourselves to carry us into the future and to secure the right of our people to survive as distinct, independent people for centuries to come.

Mary Miller
Nome, Alaska 99760

Prudhoe council update

Ladies and Gentlemen:

First, a "great big thank you" from my heart for both your time and support to our Community Council.

As you already know, we are a group of citizens who formed together to make this a more enjoyable community to live in while we're away from our loved ones. We need your time and your support so that we may pull together as a unit for better community improvements, not only for us who live and work here now, but for our future residents.

Our motive is absolutely not for any political gain for anyone, large or small. We are after more comfort, protection, and enjoyment in our lives while we are up here on the North Slope of Alaska.

One of our goals was to have a voting booth for our registered voters to vote and participate in local government, state and borough elections. We now have gained this privilege, thanks to our North Slope Borough Mayor, the Honorable George A. Ahmaogak.

Among our other goals is a Community Center where we may hold entertainment events for non-profit organizations, community meetings, church services, and libraries with study halls for those of us who would like to further our educations.

You may recall that in April we held a community evening of entertainment at Veco's welding and machine shop. This was made available to us by Veco, who donated a lot of time and effort to get their shop set up for this great event here in Prudhoe. We had tried other places with no avail, because of such short notice, proving the great need for our own community building. We accepted, with great pleasure, the offer from Veco, not looking at it as a political venture but as a community affair, proving that as a community we must stand together and stand tall. We received help and supplies from others in our community and my Community Council members.

A lot of you attended our Community Council's 4th of July Celebration, which we held on

the banks of the Sag River last year! We are already planning for the events that will take place this 4th of July, as another community affair sponsored by the people, our people of this great community. Your time and support will be needed, as in all our events.

We have been asked to participate in other community activities, but to do so we will need your attendance and support, teamwork for and by all. Our next Community Council meeting will be held the evening of May 8th if we're able to find a location large enough to hold our gathering - where it's warm and dry. This will be announced soon.

I again take this opportunity to thank our Honorable Mayor Ahmaogak and his staff and the Wainwright Dancers for that most memorable and enjoyable evening. And to our Bay Area Western Band "The Nashville North" who played for our entertainment and dancing pleasure that evening. Thank you!

Ben Eglet, President
Community Council
Prudhoe Bay, Alaska 99734

Support sought for stamps

To the Editor:

We are seeking help in making a recommendation to the Postmaster General that "Small Town, America" become the topic for a series of U.S. postage stamps. Other countries have honored small towns with stamps. The U.S. has not. We think this is an oversight and small towns are long overdue for this form of recognition.

The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee that reviews subject

matter for stamps will meet again shortly and will consider the "Small Town, America" series then. We urge anyone who supports the notion that small towns deserve recognition on postage stamps to write in support of the series to:

Paul N. Carlin, Postmaster's General, c/o Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'enfant Plaza, Washington, D.C. 20260.

The series proposal calls for

scenes from small towns in each of the 50 states. This will be the fifth time the Advisory Committee has considered the topic "Small Town America." The committee has thus far rejected honoring small towns. Consequently, timely letters to the Postmaster may prompt the Committee to approve this worthy series.

Mike and Maggie LaNoue
P.O. Box 102
Albion, Michigan 49224

Emmonak thanks dancers

Open letter to Alakanuk Eskimo Dancers:

On behalf of the Emmonak Eskimo Dancers I would like to thank you and all the surrounding villages for responding so generously to our potlatch invita-

tion which was held on April 12, 1985.

We are grateful that you came to enjoy the dances that we presented. Also to witness the introduction ceremonies of our young and new dancers.

We hope that more of our young people will be introduced in this annual event in the future, as it is a very interesting valuable tradition of our village.

Joe Agathluk, Chief
Emmonak Eskimo Dancers