

Letters to the Editor

July 15, 1968

Mr. Howard Rock, Editor
Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Howard:

Read your latest issue of the "Time" (July 12th) and it was interesting. I feel that a man like Leonard Monaghan with his education and knowledge should have good discretion in what he is doing.

Because he gave the store managers a raise, he loses his job with ANICA.

I was in a similar situation and at the time I was working for a State Agency. Case was I had a part time job with a private firm here in Bethel, I believe they call that "moon-lighting" but previous that I had written two Agency memorandums requesting permission to do so and never did get a reply on them. Assuming that it was OK, I went ahead with my part time job after regular duty hours.

Sometimes later I got a visit from my supervisor from the Anchorage Office, which he was doing too frequently and not having too much business here except to visit his friends. He did most of his work outside the Agency office saying that there was not enough privacy there, anyway I get a transfer and a suspense which the State did not pay for except for my fare. I had to dig up the money for the family and our household goods. This particular job I had was one man office and my supervision was from Anchorage.

As an Alaskan Native I am speaking out also as a citizen of the United States, which practices independency, but if you say too much and your supervisor which naturally is a white man knows you're right, he steps on you. I know that my case is not the first of its kind.

Anyway, my supervisor states that particular visit he had orders to terminate me, in other words he wanted me to resign quietly and not make an issue out of the whole thing, but there are cases where a person with caliber to retaliate don't appreciate things of the same regardless of race. I may sound as if I have a chip on the block, but I think that it is a legitimate chip.

Out of the ordeal I got a transfer to another duty station and a cut in salary. With the given salary I was unable to meet my other commitments I was forced to return to the village and once again live off the land.

This happened 3 months ago and I am still trying to pay the bills that have accumulated in the eight months I worked with the Agency.

I brought this case up to what I thought might help me but it apparently did not have any political value to them.

Top all this off I received an evaluation from my supervisor which would have prevented me to advance in the Agency, this is known of any Federal or State Agency. He said some things which were deliberate lies. Those evaluations become permanent at the central office and if I should be considered for another state position this would have a lot of reflection and give me a false reputation.

I have wanted to write to you for some time and let our fellow Natives know of such cases. I also want to thank you for the personal favor you did for me when I went to school up there for a short period a couple of years ago. At your discretion you may print my letter.

Sincerely,
Larson King
Bethel, Alaska