

Select commissions from all of state

The following was sent to Gov. Bill Sheffield.

Dear Gov. Sheffield:

Congratulations to you and Lt. Gov. McAlpine, and thank you for supporting the subsistence issue which was an important issue for many Alaskans.

My name is Grace Ann Smith and I am an Alaskan Yupik from the Yukon Kuskokwim District. I seriously have been thinking of writing to you since I did not receive much of a response from the Hammond Administration concerning this issue I am about to bring to your attention.

I have been very concerned about the selection of Commissions and Boards for the State Alaska. The process in selecting the Commissioners and Boards I feel is very important in determining the evaluation and criteria used to make the final decision and appointment.

I feel certain criteria have not been included in "social, cultural and economical" needs. These should be included for logical and ethnic reasons.

The selection of Commissioners and Boards have not been seriously considering the needs of the different people of the State of Alaska.

Our State is made of different cultures and each tribe has its own special needs, and

these I do not believe have been seriously considered.

The selection of Commissions and Boards is a very important task to fulfill and such concerns and needs must be taken into consideration.

I also have heard of selections to fill such positions by people who are not truly Alaskans, but who have been appointed for their education and experience which I feel is not enough.

The "SOCIAL AND CULTURAL NEEDS" must also be included so all aspects of needs can be pertained. The appointment of people not from our State is an insult to us many Alaskans when we have many capable "Alaskans" who can fill these positions.

I have experienced problems relating to this problem I am presenting to you. I have interacted with people from "high offices" when I am trying to bring up concerns and needs and they have a difficult time understanding what I am talking about because they are not socially and culturally conditioned yet.

I have then realized sometimes it is useless to try and explain because they do not understand, yet these are selected people to represent our needs. This certainly does not make sense to me.

They do not understand the way people live, especially

from the rural areas. I feel it more ethical and logical to put our own people into these positions since they are more knowledgeable of our concerns and needs.

I also feel many of the people from Outside though they are educated to the highest with Doctorates, PH.D's, and Masters Degrees are not fully representing our needs. It takes time to adjust and learn a new environment, and especially with Alaska being a unique State with its special needs.

It's just not like the Lower Forty-eight. When these people are selected to fill positions in our State's policy-making government they must be able to represent the many tribes and people of the State. Once policy decisions have been made these new policies affect the whole State of Alaska.

Finally, I urge you, Mr. Sheffield to appoint Alaskans to Commissions and Boards, for our security and well-being for our State and people whom you work for. These people appointed need to work with us rather than we trying to work with them.

I feel when they become public servants they need to know who they are representing. Thank you for your time, and wish you the best in your new administration.

Sincerely,

Grace Ann Smith

Raise driving along with drinking age

To the Editor:

There have been discussions of raising the drinking age to 21 partially because the 19-year-old drinking age is related to some auto accidents. Suggest that driver's license and drinking licenses be given similar treatment.

Raise the normal driving or drinking age to 21, however, give the opportunity to obtain license to drive at 16 and the license to drink at 19

provided they complete educational courses designed to help responsibilities related to each license.

Incentive to achieve a license and ability to absorb instruction to achieve a license would be high, and one would expect a lifetime of good influence from the courses.

To help establish rapport with the police, suggest that at least one instructor be from the police department.

It seems responsibility could be the key to courses for licenses and the courses could cover anything that may weaken that responsibility, before receiving a license one could be asked to sign acceptance of responsibility as an adult in activities related to license desired.

Penalties for misconduct could relieve one of his early license.

Leonard E. Moffitt
Palmer