An "Irreverent" view of the (d)(2) controversy

(Editor's Note: Tundra Times advertising manager Jack O. Hakkila, who wrote: "An irreverent view of the lieutenant governor's primary race" and "An irreverent view of the Governor's primary race," submits another irreverent discourse this week on the (d)(2) issue. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Tundra Times.)

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Recently upon returning from St. Lawrence Island I had the unique opportunity to visit Alaska in 2028. We were in Tommy's Elbow Room playing the Space Wars game. I pressed the hyperspace button and one of the wires came loose inside the machine.

I remember a ball of light and then landing in the middle of the Arrigetch Peaks in the Brooks Range. There I was met by Jim Kowalsky, keeper of the Park.

I recognized Jim. He had been head of the Friends of the Earth back in 1978 when I had attempted to sell them advertising in one of our special editions. I asked him about the insignia on his cap.

"The caribou, yes, that signifies that I am chief gamekeeper of the park. Back in '78 we had this unresolved D-2 issue. Senator Stevens told the people that the bill would have to be passed. When they did not listen all of Alaska was placed in national monument status. They appoint

ted me the gamekeeper from back in Washington. It has been an interesting position."

I asked him about all of the people in green uniforms. "One of my first acts as gamekeeper was to make all Alaskans rangers. We issued the green gabardines to everyone. It worked out that each Alaskan had almost one thousand acres he was responsible for. Recognizing that a society cannot properly function with everyone employed as park rangers we let people keep their previous jobs as sidelines. You'll notice that for the benefit of tourists on his shirt pocket each individual carries the title of his second employment."

I noticed Tom Richards Jr. The gold in PUBLISHER, TUNDRA TIMES, stood out beautifully against his green uniform. Tom was showing a group of tourists how to take pictures with his new camera.

Jim explained, "It is against regulations any longer to click a shutter in Alaska. The noise disturbs the mating habits of our birds Tom takes all of our pictures for us with his silent Japanese camera. We make them available to tourists for purchase."

Jim next took me for a tour of the pipeline. We came to a caribou crossover area. I noticed the name of the fellow who was counting, pad and pen in hand.

DON WRIGHT, GOVERNOR, stood out plainly on his shirt pocket. "What are you doing," I asked him.

"We are holding an election," he explained. "Shortly after being elected Governor I abolished the position of Lieutenant Governor. I supervise the elections myself. The Lieutenant Governor hadn't really been supervising elections. I thought it would save the state some money."

'How are the elections coming along?" I then asked.

"Seventy thousand of the bulls have crossed over for Wally Hickel over there. You see that large green area over there. Wally has been fertilizing the lichens. Shortly after he received his thousand acres, Wally issued stock in a reindeer corporation. In return for shares, many people gave up their lands to his management."

I noticed that the young caribou were crossing over to Chancy Croft. "Yes," Don answered, "The state cleared off a large area for Chancy's herd. There are no pipelines or hydroelectric projects. Chancy recognizes that the young caribou don't like to work, climbing over all those crossings."

Then as I looked North toward the Arctic Ocean, I noticed thousands of the green uniforms stretched out along the pipeline corridor, I asked Don what they are doing.

"They are supporting the pipeline." he replied. "Shortly after we turned the state into a national monument we discovered there was no more wood for shoring. The federal government had required the shoring as a precaution. Since we could not

cut any more timber, we simply put people back to work holding up the line."

As we climbed out from among the peaks and headed back to Tommy's, I couldn't help but think that all Alaskans had indeed been the winners in the 1978 elections.