

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Editorial Comment—

The Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts of Alaska dramatically united to become as one people for the purpose of seeking justice from the United States government just seven short years ago. That inspired act of brotherhood produced landmark legislation - the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. By that act, enacted into law on December 18, 1971, history was made and the state of Alaska forever changed.

The Natives, as one of the classes of beneficiaries under the Act, will retain title to 40 million acres of land and will be compensated in exchange for the extinguishment of their claims of aboriginal title to the remaining acreage of this vast state. They are being 'given' nothing. The state of Alaska is a beneficiary of the Act in that land selection rights under the Statehood Act may now be exercised. Settlement of the Native land rights issue also removed another impediment to the construction of the much needed Alaska pipeline.

The citizens of this nation are beneficiaries because all people have a stake in seeing that justice is done. The citizens of this nation have a stake in the additions proposed by the Department of Interior to the four primary systems - even if the rationale and procedure for doing so leave us with grave reservations.

The Claims Settlement Act makes clear that the regional and village corporations shall administer the land, the land resources and the financial assets on behalf of their respective stockholders.

The pace-setting Alaska Native Regional Corporations have both an obligation and a rare opportunity, for unlike the many corporations in the business world that today seek some semblance of a conscience, the Regional Corporations were conceived with a corporate conscience and a people-oriented mission. They must adopt the best procedures that prevail in the business community without becoming carbon copies of these occasionally impersonal and sometimes gigantic institutions. This business entity - the corporation - is a tool that must be constantly reexamined and reshaped in terms of its ability to achieve the goals that are established for it. The Natives must not allow the fact of individual corporate existence to diminish the fact that our unity and concern for one another is our strength. All of our Regional and village corporations are affected by the various Securities Acts and the I.R.S. regulations and ruling. Section 7(i) of the Settlement Act provides for the sharing of the mineral estate underlying the Native selected 40 million acres among all Native stockholders. In these critical areas the actions of one corporation impact another. We must learn to distinguish carefully between those matters which are of sole concern to the individual corporation and those which should be approached on a united basis.

One of our major concerns will continue to be the monitoring of the state and federal agencies charged with various responsibilities under the Settlement Act. The Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture, for example, seems to view the Settlement Act as a threat to their land holdings which must be resisted. Although section 2(b) of the Act provides for maximum participation by the Natives in decisions that affect them, the For-

Letters from Here and There

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH

P.O. Box 546

Barrow, Alaska 99723

Telephone 852-4865

Dec. 11, 1973

Mr. Morgan Richardson
V.P. Marketing & Sales
Wien Consolidated Airlines
4100 Airport Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Richardson:

Information reaching my office concerning the national fuel shortage and the effect on the local operations and traffic of both freight and passengers rather disturbs me.

I am told that because of fuel allocations, the only airline that services the Barrow area will be forced to cut down to five scheduled flights per week, and on two consecutive days, Sunday and Monday.

First let me say that because of geographic locations, undoubtedly your planes will be flying on Mondays between Anchorage and Fairbanks. Also because of our geographic locations, we in Barrow area are served only by your airline. If all flights for Sunday are cancelled between Anchorage and Fairbanks and other points, in other words, total shut down on Sundays I should not complain.

If however you are flying on Mondays, then I must very strongly suggest that you schedule flights also to Barrow. If we had another airline to depend on for those days you are not flying here, it really wouldn't matter too much.

By your scheduling no flights on Sunday and Monday both, you would work a tremendous hardship for the Barrow area and the North Slope Borough in general.

At the very minimum I am willing to agree to a no flight on Sunday.

If you must cut down another day, for gosh sakes at least avoid doing it on two consecutive days.

I am sure that there is a way, if you must cut down, and to which I am not certain you must, to schedule another day in the week, perhaps Wednesday or Thursday, but don't do it on our two consecutive days.

I think it's a mistake to assume that Barrow falls in the same category as Nome or Kotzebue from the stand of needed service. Both the towns of Nome and Kotzebue are served by Wien and Alaska Airlines.

I want to assure you that my office is prepared to discuss

this matter with you at anytime or call me at 852-4865 or 852-4845.

Thank you,
Eben Hopson, mayor
North Slope Borough
cc: Tundra Times, Fairbanks

P.O. Box 48584
Reprea, Calif. 95671
Dec. 11, 1973

Dear Mr. Rock:

Your paper is in truth the voice of our people, upon receipt of my first check from the Bristol Bay Native Corp., Dillingham, I will take out a year's subscription. Until last week when I received letters from Mr. Bigjim, Methodist U. at Anchorage and Mr. Ted Angasan, deputy director of Bristol Bay Native Corp., the Tundra Times was the only source of information concerning the "Act."

Mr. Bigjim was kind enough to send a copy of said act, and Mr. Angasan wrote and gave verification of my brother's and my own enrollment as per the Nov. 8 printout.

No word yet on my boys, that also means no words from the enrollment office at Anchorage as of this date. I thank you with all my heart for printing my letter. It's not only helping me, but other Natives Outside, as you up North call this land mass down here.

Our Native leaders are answering even though that "office" in Anchorage is not.

As to your editorial comment in the paper dated Nov. 21, I am one Eskimo who feels Morris Thompson is a step in the right direction. I voted against the 13th Region, looking for leadership by Natives for Natives! Mr. Thompson is just that.

I'm hoping at this writing we down here in this small group of Alaska Natives get a corporation check before your paper stops coming. Will close in wishing you sir, and all who have helped bring about the "Act" a happy holiday season, and your totem a good one.

Sincerely,
John L. Lombard

TO: State Operated School Board
650 International Airport Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

FROM: Ruby Advisory School Board

DATE: Ruby, Alaska 99768
November 8, 1973

Gentlemen:

The Ruby Advisory School

est Service and other agencies have been slow to respond. We will not and must not allow the 'old' way of deciding matters affecting us to continue!

Section 2(c) of the Settlement Act provides for the study of federal programs designed primarily for the benefit of Alaska Natives. The study will result in recommendations to be submitted to the congress. The danger exists that section 2(c) could take away a part of what is granted by the Act itself by reducing vital federal programs.

The task before the Natives is a complex and challenging one. All citizens have a stake in our success which, after all, is a better Alaska for all Alaskans.

A necessary condition to the successful attainment of our goals as a people is a recommitment to a unified Native effort on a statewide basis. Sealaska Corporation is committed to that concept.

— John Borbridge, Jr.
President, Sealaska Corp.

Board wishes to protest the deadlines established by the State Operated School Board on the matter of draft copies of the policy manual for advisory school boards.

On Sept. 27, 1973, your Board directed that draft copies of this manual were to be distributed and that feedback from local advisory school boards should be back in the Anchorage office of State-Operated Schools by Oct. 20, 1973.

It is a near impossibility to get such vital material printed in such a short time. It is also unlikely that mail service would get such materials to the local advisory school boards before the deadline.

Such important material deserves the thoughtful consideration of the advisory boards—this also takes time.

In our community, a single copy of the draft reached the Principal-teacher the night of Oct. 18, 1973. The only other copy reached the Chairman of the advisory board after the Oct. 20 deadline. Other board members did not receive copies at all. With mail schedules—and mail service being what it is—it was impossible to get our views in to the Anchorage office by the Oct. 20 deadline.

Why give lip service to the idea of local input and then set impossible deadlines?

The Ruby Advisory School Board, by unanimous vote in the regular meeting Nov. 6, 1973, protests such action.

Sincerely yours,
Ruby Advisory School Board
John Honea
President
Florence Esmailka
Secretary
Zeta Cleaver
Harold Esmailka
(continued on page 8)

BLM Land Issues

CLAIMS QUESTIONS

By JOETTE STORM

(This column is printed to provide a forum for all of our readers who are affected by the Native Land Claims Settlement Act. Questions should be addressed to: Claims Questions (912), Bureau of Land Management, 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. This column may be reproduced without written permission.)

Q: I have just learned that my allotment application has been rejected. Does this mean I will not receive any land under the Claims Act?

B.R., Bering Straits N.A.

A: Native allotments are not part of the claims settlement. Allotments were granted under a separate law that is no longer in effect.

If you are enrolled under the Land Claims Act, you should be able to share in the settlement. If you have a (residence) home, business, or subsistence campsite within the lands selected by your village corporation, the village must grant title to the surface rights of that land. If your home, business, or campsite is on lands selected by the regional corporation, the region can also grant title. But the region is not obliged to do so.

To find out what lands are being selected in your region, contact the Bering Straits Native Corporation, P.O. Box 1008, Nome, Alaska 99762.