

LETTERS FROM HERE AND THERE

Nenana, Alaska
December 31, 1970

Dear Friend Editor:

I remember back in 1919 and 1920 when my family traveled 400 miles by boat and barge for beaver, moose, marten, etc. There was no moose, marten or beaver within 100 miles around Nulato.

We started shooting beaver fall and spring. Then the Fish and Wildlife, or game warden, put a limit on beaver also marten and moose. At that time I thought to myself that the game commission was wrong, and they were. I sold contraband beaver, marten and moose meat. I knew that's the only way we could live. As young as I was then, 13 years old, I sold for my dad and family.

I knew at that time putting a limit on fur or meat wouldn't do any good because that's nature. When God made the world, he saw to it that the ducks and geese and fish came back every spring. We were pretty hungry about that time. And everything was migrating different places every four years and heavy run of fish every four years. You could tell now where the Fish and Wildlife was wrong. The moose is now public nuisance, the marten is thick, also beavers are all over the Yukon.

I'm not buying trapping, hunting and fishing license yet, but I'm still going to trap, hunt and fish in my own land. I want the whole world to know that and smoke it. I'll go out when I'm hungry.

Nulato Village Council President,
Fred Stickman, Sr.

My dear Friends,

This will be my last communication with you as the Congressman for Alaska. As the Ninety-First Congress draws to a close, and I disassemble my Congressional office, and prepare for an exciting new chapter in my eventful life, I feel it important to convey to you my deep satisfaction and fulfillment in having served you and all our fellow Alaskans as U.S. Representative in the United States Congress in Washington, D.C.

It has been a deeply rewarding experience. I feel, and hope you do, that I have done a good job, and that Alaska and Alaskans are better off because of my efforts and contributions.

One of the most difficult decisions of my public life was that of seeking the governorship instead of remaining in the U.S. House of Representatives, but I felt I could serve my people even better in that position of leadership at this important juncture in history. Alas, it was not meant to be, for the Republican Party chose to make a different choice in the primary.

Our problems are many, and some of the most significant have yet to be resolved. It is my fervent wish that you and all Alaskans will give our new leadership team in Juneau and in Washington, D.C. all the support and backing possible. Together Alaskans can solve the difficult problems ahead.

I have looked upon my public service as a ministry for my fellow Alaskans, and feel privileged to have been chosen for the significant role of leadership I was allowed to play. Perhaps one day I will again have the opportunity to represent and serve you and all Alaskans.

God love you and yours, and keep you always.

Cordially and with appreciation
for many things,
Howard Pollock
The Congressman for Alaska

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
December, 1970

Open Letter to all Alaskans