

Tanana Hospital essential to interior

To the Editor:

I am working in Village Public Safety in the city of Nulato since the middle of September '81. For the past two weeks I have talked with many people about what is going to happen in September '82 to the Tanana Hospital located in Tanana, AK.

The hospital there is scheduled to be closed because of lack of patients. Many Nulato residents are concerned because they feel that going to Fairbanks or Anchorage would be too expensive for them.

They complain of the high cost of transportation to and in the cities of Fairbanks and Anchorage, the hotel and cab fares, plus the fact that many local residents don't know anyone in the cities that they could stay with, while in town for health prob-

lems.

The majority of Nulato residents are unemployed, and surviving on welfare plus the wild game they could get. The men go out trapping and commercial fishing, but with gas and food prices the money that is made is barely enough to get by.

The point is, will the state be willing to take on the responsibility of paying part of the transportation cost to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, plus room and board (until a boarding facility can be built) for the Interior Natives who use the Tanana Hospital. With President Reagan's budget cuts the monies will be next to impossible to find but, it's their responsibility.

If the Tanana Hospital could be modernized, then more village patients could be referred

there. If the hospital closes down the state plans to build a hospital in Galena.

There is a local bar in Galena and many people would not have enough self-control from going to have a few with their friends, when they are there to go to the hospital. I realize that the location in Galena would be to the Interior Alaskan advantage, but more people will be susceptible to the influence of alcohol that is on hand in Galena; there is also a liquor store there.

We are asking that the state keep the Tanana Hospital open for the benefit of the Interior Alaskans. If it is closed the state will deprive the people of a traditional Native hospital.

Leonard Stickman, Jr.
Village Public Safety

Subsistence proposals aimed to drive wedge

To the Editor:

This letter is in regard to Alaska Board of Game Regulatory Proposals 1 through 35.

These 35 proposals were not written by rural Alaskans. Whoever wrote these proposals is driving a wedge deeper between sport hunters, sport fishermen, commercial fishermen, guides, trappers, and people living in rural Alaska using the resources as part of their livelihood and existence.

It's propaganda like these 35 proposals that keep Alaskans at each others throats.

The Game Board owes an apology and has the responsibility to the public and to all rural Alaskans to make the public aware that rural Alaskans did not write or have any input in the creation of these proposals.

Rural Alaskans should not be made to look like we are greedy and want everything in the air, on and in the water,

and in the woods, just for us.

I think the time is ripe, but not too late yet, for the hunters, trappers, and fishermen of Alaska to sit down and make an unselfish effort to solve our problems before we all go down in the same boat. Without lawyers and those who know nothing about the game and other resources, other than their own selfish interests.

I can only see a very depressing picture in store for the people of Alaska, both rural and urban, with the possible repeal of the subsistence law coming in November. With federal oversight and the loss of managing over fifty percent of our land and wildlife. We the people should not allow control of our God-Given and local resources, to be turned over to an already too big and too distant Federal Bureaucracy.

I only hope all people of

Alaska can act together and pull together to help retain our resources and not take opposite sides and directions ending up with nothing.

Don Lawe
Galena,

not Funny

To the Editor:

When James Watt was asked about his remark, "There are two kinds of people in the country: liberals and Americans," he declared it was a hilariously funny joke.

Anyone who thinks this kind of remark is funny should never be allowed in a decision-making position affecting the lives and livelihoods and life styles of the people of this country.

You're not cute, Mr. Watt.

M.L. Johnston
20 Knollridge Rd., 601
Salem, VA 24153