

Letters

AkPIRG responds to ARCO media blitz

To the editor:

AkPIRG is responding to ARCO's media blitz for support of a "stable" tax policy for the petroleum industry — their attempt to stop any changes in oil taxation. They argue that oil price drops have hurt industry revenues as much as they have hurt state tax revenues. They also argue that they receive less than one third of total oil income here while federal and state governments take at least one third each. These assertions are inaccurate and misleading to the point of deception of the public.

These inaccuracies are illustrated by the industry's failure to distinguish between revenues and profits. As they suggest, gross revenues of the industry have decreased along with the drop in world oil prices. But net profits have not declined because oil companies now take a larger percentage of the lower total oil revenues. In fact, annual industry profits have stayed near the \$6 billion mark since the 1981 oil price peak because the drop in world oil prices means lower Windfall Profits Taxes.

Unnecessarily high pipeline tariffs have helped maintain these profits, too. These tariffs are paid by the shippers of oil to the owners of the TAPS pipeline — those very same oil companies. The tariffs are regulated and remain set at unacceptably high per barrel rates despite falling oil prices. Thus, they have been an effective method of maintaining profits for the industry. These profits are,

astonishingly, considered separately in Alaska Department of Revenue figures for oil company revenues, but this distinction is artificial in economic terms, and is perpetuated by the oil companies when they make their deceiving arguments.

Tariffs also explain the true overall division of this income among the industry, state and federal governments. Industry's claim of taking less than one third of total income is based on **production** income only. It ignores pipeline income — which contributes 25 percent to the industry's profits and only about five percent to the state's revenues. Tariffs provide major profits for the industry and should certainly be included when calculating the percentage of income each party receives. When thus included, AkPIRG has shown that the industry got 50 percent of total 1985 income in contrast to 22 percent for the federal government and 27 percent for the state — a far cry from the "less than one third" that ARCO claims in its advertising.

ARCO has a responsibility to present facts clearly, completely and honestly to Alaskans who can then make their own assessment of appropriate oil taxation policy. AkPIRG will continue to point out ARCO's failure to do so, and will present the additional facts needed to let the public decide.

Sincerely,

Michele Dreyfuss
Research Intern

Alaska Public Interest Research Group

Candidate takes stand on Sovereignty

To the editor:

The issue of Indian Tribal Sovereignty is one filled with complicated treaties, contracts, and history itself from the original formation of the United States of America, a sovereign nation.

After careful study of the history, the laws, the treaties and contracts entered into in this country, I take the following stand in my candidacy for Governorship:

The sovereign issue to me is one very much related to our freedom and is one of human rights. I feel every American would agree with me after studying the same. The tribes of Alaska simply want to be left alone in each of their tribes to be able to enjoy the freedoms afforded them within their own Indian nation, their culture, their beliefs, their land, wildlife and resources. They have this right of existence of this great group of Americans. Indian sovereignty would operate as a nation within a nation and should be left alone to do so, adhering only to contracts and treaties with the United States government. In other words, leave the Indians alone to be a sovereign people and they in turn would leave us alone as a sovereign people. The Indian tribes are the only Americans to have dual citizenship of two nations on the same soil by treaties and contracts originally made with them at the formation of our nation in exchange for land

at that time. Their only contracts are with the United States and not the State of Alaska.

As governor, I would do my utmost to lobby with that authority to the Congress and the President of the United States to, in good faith, honor those commitments made to these tribes. The sovereign authority afforded not only the Indian tribes but to all of us as citizens of a sovereign nation have had our sovereignty and freedoms that have been guaranteed all Americans by the Constitution of the United States, violated through judicial process, arrogance, and ignoring the will of the people. I would once again do my best to make our government, for the people, by the people and of the people. What all of us were guaranteed has been taken away by this monster called government that was created by the people and is currently eating us all alive. It was created by us and can be changed by us, but we must take this strong stand for not only our sakes, but for future generations.

We, the people of the State of Alaska, have the unique opportunity to start the pendulum swinging the other direction. An example, of sorts, for the rights afforded us all. Basic fundamental human rights are not negotiable. On these principals I will run the office of the Governor of the State of Alaska. Alaskans can and will take the leadership role for the nation.

Mary A. O'Brannon

Former Mt. Edgecumbe teacher says 'thanks'

To the editor:

This is to acknowledge the beautiful plaque presented to me at the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Anchorage in the fall of 1985. I appreciate the kind thoughts expressed on this beautiful maroon and gold plaque by the students who attend-

ed Mt. Edgecumbe High School while I was a teacher there from 1974-1977 when I retired.

My best wishes to each of you for continued success and happiness.

Sincerely,

A. Theresa Ripley

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Letters to the editor are gladly accepted and will be printed on a space-available basis. Letters must be signed by the author, and must be accompanied by address and/or telephone number. Name and address may be withheld from publication, at the author's request, under certain circumstances. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length, and for profane or libelous content. Send letters to: Tundra Times Editor, P.O. Box 104480, Anchorage, AK 99510-4480.

Letters

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To the editor:

At last, a candidate for Governor who is highly qualified as a leader, a life long Alaskan (47 years, he's 48) that knows more about Alaska than just Anchorage or Fairbanks, fully understands the urban and rural problems of Alaska, as a common sense approach to the subsistence problem and opposes village sovereignty for fair and equitable reasons. Ron Somerville is truly concerned about all Alaskans and the burden they carry of having over a 2 billion dollar State Operating Budget, and only a 470 million dollar Capital Improvement Budget.

Down in this country you can't get a State Trooper or a Wildlife Enforcement Officer when you need one, and our roads are falling apart, and promised paving projects never consummated. The Sterling Hwy is a disgrace and there are no plans on the board for improvements. So, where is all of the money going?

It is time to elect a Governor that will lead and direct State Government, not just be a figure head with old buddies in key appointed high paying positions with a do nothing attitude.

Ron Somerville will find out where all your bucks are going and bring the budget into line, and he will unite all Alaskans. With his 20 years in State Government and a Director of a major division, he has the background and demonstrated ability to do it.

Don Roberts
Box 364

Anchor Point, Ak 99556