

"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 13th Region

The following "impression" was submitted to the Tundra Times by Thomas P. Durand, vice president of the Alaska Native Association, Oregon. The paper discusses the 13th Region. The contents should be read carefully and evaluated. Here in Alaska, the Alaska Native people, their leaders and this newspaper waged a difficult battle to win the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement. The primary purpose of the fight was to assure a good future for the generations to come here in the North.

While the Alaska native people do not mind sharing the settlement with their families, with those who left the land and did not return to fight for it, Mr. Durand and his group want to disassociate themselves entirely from their connections back to the land.

The white man has tried in many ways to divide the Native people of Alaska into small groups so that they can be more easily dealt with — and defeated. Mr. Durand has divided the Alaska Native people into resident and non-resident — cold words for a people who are brother, sister, mother, father, and cousin to many of us here.

Life has often been hard for Native people. They have been forced to move from one place to another, not always because they wanted to. Some have moved far indeed, both geographically and spiritually from the land.

There is no such thing, we think, as "local concern" of which Mr. Durand and the staff of the Alaska Native Association of Oregon speak. The Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement united the Native people for the first time in their history on a matter which transcended "local concerns."

The question of a 13th Regional Corporation is not a matter between the SEALASKA Corporation and Mr. Durand's corporation alone. It is a matter which concerns all twelve of the Native regional corporations and each and every Alaska Native person.

(We welcome the comments of our readers on this question which involves us all.)

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'Impressions'

TO THE EDITOR:

We, the staff of the Alaska Native Association of Oregon, read of SEALASKA's grave doubts on the prospects for a 13th Regional Corporation. Having given some study to the matter, we feel it incumbent on ourselves not only to lay these aside but also to point out some reasons for forming this 13th Corporation.

The Twelve Regions use one principle argument to induce a Non-Resident to join a resident corporation: this of course, is the 40 million acres of land. Let us investigate this point.

As we see it, this land will be much like a spoiled child, offering some comfort and much grief.

Many residents are still subsistence hunters. Over half the food consumed in Northern and Western Alaska is taken from the land. Simply in being there the land will provide much of a resident's daily bread. This will be the land's only comfort. The grief beyond this is great. Having land means the Twelve Corporations will be land development corporations. Either together or separately, the resident corporations will have to form area wide development plans. We can predict with absolute certainty that the birth pains of each of these plans will be the same as those of the North Slope pipeline.

Beyond this, the whole of the 40 million acres will, on December 18, 1992, may be taxed. To be sure, these taxes will provide state services in boroughs where the population is mostly Native. However, these taxes must be paid. Much of the resources of the resident corporations will have to be used to provide money to pay these taxes.

Moreover, we hear again and again, and again about the great mineral wealth of Alaska. We do not deny their existence.

Tom Richards, Jr.'s Column--

Muktuk in Travel Bag Permeates Laura's Wardrobe

(c) 1973 by
THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.

OLONGAPO CITY — I imagine that my presence in Washington from 1970 through 1972 angered some people and was, to say the least, an inconvenience to others. I have never, for example, made any secret of my love for Eskimo food and how my absence from Alaska has increased my hunger for it.

With all the Alaskans visiting D.C. during that time, I thought that there might be some chance I could get a regular supply of such foods as dried fish and muktuk. I asked some of these travelers to bring to me some of these delicacies, and I was happy with the response.

Laura Bergt, our beautiful Eskimo ambassador who has

rubbed noses with the famous and powerful, never should have granted me the favor. She was to come to Washington from Fairbanks to attend a meeting of the National Council on Indian Opportunity, and consented to bring along a package of muktuk from my mother.

Laura, a seasoned traveler, has a reputation for her talent in being the last person to check in with the airline and board a flight. It was no different on this flight. With few precious moments remaining before the airplane's departure, she picked up the frozen muktuk, threw it in her luggage, and roared off to the airport.

After disembarking her aircraft at Dulles Airport near Washington, she was dismayed to learn that the airline had

misrouted her bag and was working to trace its whereabouts. She bemoaned the inconvenience of having "nothing to wear" except what she had on until the airline found her luggage.

Then the poor woman remembered the muktuk, and also recalled that she hadn't taken the precaution of wrapping the package securely. She endured a painful wait for the bag, all the time thinking about how the muktuk must be thawing, and the oil permeating her wardrobe.

Inevitably, the bag arrived after the muktuk had completely thawed, giving her outfits a distinctive aroma. Maybe, she shouldn't have taken the trouble of specifying those cleaning instructions to the hotel laundry. If she hadn't, Laura would truly have been able to show Mr. Agnew and the members of the President's cabinet a genuine air of Eskimo hospitality.

LETTERS

Nulato, Alaska
March 7, 1973

Dear Editor:

Pipeline, pipeline, pipeline! That's all I read everytime I pick up the News-Miner. Don't people look on the other side of world before they talk pipeline? White people coming in from the outside wanted to get rich. All they want is that "almighty dollar." All these years we've been getting along good without the pipeline.

Why did Udall froze the land? Rich people buying land right along side of us poor people. He had to do something. There are too many people coming in to Alaska, and there'll be a lot more. That's one of the reasons I quit Eielson.

You should guess what I'm talking about. Not safe, sickness, disease, thieves, dope, etc. coming in.

Yesterday I didn't even vote because Emil Notti was talking pipeline too. Emil's mother's mother came from here and was related to Mom. Sackett's mother's mother was from Koyukuk, Alaska, 18 miles from here. So we have two, or will have, if Emil Notti gets in.

The governors, senators, congressman, all want the pipeline. Alaska is going to hell, and if the pipeline goes through, it's gone to hell.

Fred Stickman, Sr.

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March 12, 1973

Editor,
Tundra Times
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RE: House Concurrent
Resolution No. 63

Dear Sir:

Last fall the voters of this State approved a bond issue of \$16,000,000 for rural schools. The bond issued listed twelve native villages as the sites for the schools: Noorvik, Togiak, St. Lawrence, Island, Kipnuk,

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— The staff of the ALASKA NATIVE ASSOCIATION, OREGON