

'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.

However, if the conclusions of "Alaska Natives and the Land" still apply, these are for the most part unexploitable. There are cheaper sources for most. The main exception is oil. And no one can dismiss the possibility of gold. But these two minerals are wherever they are found.

Of course, there are vast usable timber resources available to SEALASKA. Indeed, for many years this corporation may well be the principle contributor to the seventy per cent sharing fund.

On this point, the gentlemen of SEALASKA are correct with regard to the 13th. It is specifically exempted from sharing its revenue with the others. We think this is proper.

And, again these gentlemen are quite right when they say that they could not issue second class shares to the non-resident. However, we would call attention to a portions of the law which pertains to a non-resident holding resident shares.

This is a special provision in Section 7, paragraph (m) which, in essence, says that an equitable portion of a non-resident dividend may be withheld to help finance projects that will benefit the region generally. We have no concept of what an "equitable share" might be: but we do envision may projects that will benefit the regions generally.

At this time, we must point out one of SEALASKA's miscalculations. Under the terms of the Act, a majority of non-residents must favor forming a 13th corporation. If the estimate of 20,000 non-residents is correct then a 13th Corporation formed by these would have to be at least equal in size to SEALASKA, which is one of the larger Resident Corporations.

The gentlemen of SEALASKA consider the problems of all Natives to be much the same. This may or may not be the case. However, there is one significant difference. The greater part of the solutions for resident problems are yet to be created. We believe that solution to non-resident problems are closer to implementation if not already operating.

We admit that either together or singly, the resident corporations might operate non-resident bureaus. But we doubt that they could operate from Alaska to meet circumstances in Oregon, Washington and California where the vast majority of non-residents reside.

Rather, in general, organizations must select primary objectives. If the officers of a resident corporation did not look firstly to the problems of its stockholders, they would be derelict in their duty. This means non-residents problems would receive low priority. For the non-resident, in effect, it would be "the same old story" . . . too little help to solve his problems . . .

As a business, we have been advised that the 13th region might operate in the manner of mutual fund, or a bank. That is it would buy existing securities of public and private organizations. Our advisor remarked that any investment counselor who failed to make an eight per cent return should be dismissed out of hand.

Here, we bring up a small point. Prices are higher in Alaska. The costs of a resident corporation, from the president's salary to paperclips, would be higher than for the 13th.

We broach another significant topic, that is corporate efficiency. We admit that there are many able experienced residents. However, we believe there are a greater number of capable non-residents. Among the membership ANAO alone there are these people: a business man who operates his own extensive machine works; a graduate economist whose work involves deciding the feasibility of proposed prospects; a graduate in business administration; an advanced law student, a pamphleteer who presents and defends non-resident rights ably; and many of large technical knowledge. We presume that the other non-residents organizations can boast of like expertise. In light of these, we say emphatically again, "There is too great a talent among non-resident Alaska Natives to be tied to the apron strings of the Twelve Regions. We are able to manage our own affairs for ourselves."

As to enrollment, ANAO has received conflicting statements about a non-residents right to change his vote on the 13th Corporation. We hope to have this matter cleared up as a result of the BIA reorganization.

We trust the above discussion has laid to rest any doubts that the gentlemen of SEALASKA have toward a 13th Corporation. Removed of this burden, they may turn their full attention on more local concerns.

— The staff of the ALASKA NATIVE ASSOCIATION, OREGON

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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Kwethluk, Prince of Wales, Alakanuk, Bethel (elementary school), Nelson Island, St. Mary's, Nunapitchuk, and Sand Point. All but one of these are to be high schools for places that have no high schools now.

House Concurrent Resolution 63 seeks to steal \$1,500,000 from that bond issue to add a multipurpose room, cafeteria, and shop, and home economics and science rooms to the Delta Junction high school.

Needless to say, Delta Junction already has a high school, the children of Delta Junction do not go away to boarding schools, and the population of Delta Junction is 99 per cent non-native.

Whenever villages ask for high schools they are told that there isn't enough money to provide them. Now that money was finally approved for some village high schools by last fall's bond issue, it seems that House Concurrent Resolution 63 will prevent that money from ever reaching those villages.

House Concurrent Resolution 63 seeks to overturn the will of the voters who approved the bond issue for village schools and will deprive hundreds of children from these villages of local secondary education opportunity.

This resolution must be defeated.

Very truly yours,

ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES
CORPORATION

Christopher R. Cooke
Supervising Attorney