

# Lost VISTA Volunteer And an Old Eskimo Strange Encounter Leads Into Extensive Analysis of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

Land's End Village  
State of Alaska  
August 6, 1973

Dear Mr. Rock,

I have been following this last series of letters from Naugga Ciunerput to the Tundra Times with great interest. For an old man, it constantly amazes me how he is always thinking about these serious problems and he is never afraid to consider new evidence and new possibilities. One of the news items that has caught our attention is the Energy Crisis in the Lower 48 and the gasoline shortage.

In the Tundra Times it says that many Natives are in favor of the Alaska Oil Pipeline and that Native Leaders have gone to Washington to lobby for the Pipeline Construction Bill in Congress. It is interesting that both the Pipeline Bill and AN ACT are specifically aimed against judicial review and litigation under law. Perhaps "justice" is not what the government is seeking in these cases, but rather "expediency" and getting on with "economic development."

If you remember, I wrote in an earlier letter that my father was a member of a conservation group that opposed the construction of an Alaskan pipeline. I had told him that this stand was anti-Native because half of their land settlement depended on oil revenues from this pipeline. Well, he has been sending me some newspaper clippings on the so-called Energy Crisis in the United States.

It seems that there is no shortage of refining capacity or crude oil supplies in Europe, for example, by American-owned companies that are rationing supplies in the U.S. They have been increasing their capacity overseas much faster than in the U.S.A. Then they advertize for more consumption in Europe, while blaming the gasoline shortage in the U.S. on the "wasteful" driving habits of the average citizen. My father says that if you watch T.V. commercials you would think that oil companies invented Ecology and were now going to teach everyone how to drive.

These same oil companies are charting the economic development and social progress of Alaska right now. Maybe we should ask the people of the North Slope Borough what kind of neighbors the wealthy oil companies really are.

It is very hard for me to be against the Alaska Oil Pipeline when I realize that the Native land claim settlement is so dependent on the oil revenue money. But when I read about the situation in other oil-producing areas of the world, a 2% royalty on oil with a \$500 million dollar upper limit seems to be a bad joke played on Native people. They will be pumping out oil for many years after the money for the Natives has dried up, and the pipeline will be the only monument.

Sincerely,  
Wally Morton