

Letters to the Tundra Times

Reader
objects
to ad

February 27, 1980

Dear Editor:

I'm afraid I must express my disapproval of your two page ad for discount liquors in the February 13 issue of Tundra Times. It seems just a little hypocritical and irresponsible, don't you think, to pronounce against alcohol abuse and all its deleterious affects on bush communities in your editorial and other columns, and then to print this abomination which can only encourage more drinking. I knew Howard Rock well enough to feel with certainty that he would also most definitely disapprove of this action on your part. There are other ways of making money to pay the costs of the paper.

Sincerely,
Frank J. Keim
Hooper Bay, Alaska

Council
fears for
subsistence

Association of Village
Council Presidents
P.O. Box 219
Bethel, Alaska 99559
543-3521
27 February 1980

Sec. Cecil Andrus
U.S. Department of the Interior
18th & C Streets, NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Andrus:

On February 12, 1980, you published in the Federal Register a notice of the withdrawal of 40 million acres in Alaska as National Wildlife Refuges pursuant to section 204(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The purpose of these withdrawals was to make permanent the previous withdrawals made by you in 1978. One of the withdrawals made by you included the Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge. This expansion of the Clarence Rhode Wildlife Refuge is the largest single withdrawal in Alaska.

As you are well aware, the villagers of the Association of Village Council President's region have been consistently in favor of the formation of a wildlife refuge in this region. The villages have felt that this is the best method for protecting the habitat and thereby protect subsistence. This language has been developed through our efforts, those of the Alaska Federation of Native, and other organizations in rural Alaska. We felt that we had reached a consensus on this with all the appropriate parties, including the Department. Now we find that this assumption was false. We now find that the Department does not intend to meet us half-way in providing for the subsistence lifestyle of the villagers on the newly created refuges.

We have closely read the language of the withdrawals made by you on the 12th. The fact that subsistence is no longer a purpose of the refuges, but only a policy, troubles us deeply. We have counted on subsistence being a purpose of the refuges. We have conveyed this to the villagers and it is with that understanding that they have supported the creation of the refuge. Now we are placed in the very difficult position of being undercut by the very people whom we thought we could trust. We have been double-crossed as now subsistence has been placed in a truly subser-

vient relationship to the other purposes of the refuges. Now, subsistence can only take place when it is found to be compatible with the other purposes. This is not the understanding which we felt all parties were abiding by throughout the entire Alaska National Interest Lands debate.

We feel that the Department must recognize the seriousness of this failure to include subsistence as a purpose of the Yukon Delta and the other newly created refuges in Alaska.

The Department has cut the ties that have been carefully
(See LETTERS, Page Nine)

Letters

(Continued from Page Two)

created during the past two or three years in trying to come to a settlement of the issue to the benefit of all parties. We feel that we have acted in good faith and that it is now time for the Department to do likewise. The only method which will restore our trust in the Department would be for you to republish the withdrawal notices and include subsistence as a purpose of the refuge as it is in all of the pending d-2 legislation.

We understand the consequences of what we are asking. We understand the groups that will not approve of these actions being taken on behalf of the subsistence users in Alaska. We are willing to take that chance, because we need to be assured of the good faith of the Department and the government that we will be working with for years to come. Unless this trust is restored immediately, we will have a very difficult time in working with the Department for many, many years.

I hope that you will take these thoughts with great seriousness. We will be looking forward to your reply. We hope that it will be a positive one and we can get this very difficult period past us and move on to other issues which will be to the benefit of us all.

Very Truly Yours,
Carl Jack

President Association
of Village Council Presidents