

Letters from Here and There

October 26, 1970

Mr. Jack Anderson
1612 "K" Street, N.W.
Suite 906
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Jack:

I want to thank you personally for taking the time to keynote this year's Tundra Times banquet in Fairbanks, and especially for drawing attention in your column to the important but difficult work Howard Rock is performing on behalf of the Alaska Natives.

I am strongly committed to the goals which Howard Rock is striving to obtain and I am delighted when he receives the recognition and support of someone as notable as yourself.

Your public stand in his behalf has provided him with a tangible boost, I am sure, and I applaud your efforts.

You've done a real fine thing, Jack. I just wanted you to know that it has not gone on unnoticed and unappreciated.

Sincerely,
Mike Gravel

Patrick Pletnikoff
Student:
1400 N.E. 41st
University of Washington
Schmitz Hall
Seattle, Washington 98105

Aleut Raps New York's 'Friends of Animals'

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98105
October 23, 1970

Dear Editor:

Because of the continuing attack by the Friends of Animals, Inc. directed to our only industry on the Pribilof Islands, I would like for the people of Alaska and elsewhere to know of our unique problem.

Friends of Animals, Inc. is dedicated to stopping the harvest of Fur Seals, which for many generations of Aleuts, has been the only means of support. The harvesting is done by the Aleuts in accord with conservation practices devised by the Federal Government and prevents the wasteful death of countless number of seals from disease, malnutrition, and overpopulation.

We of the Pribilof Islands feel that Friends of Animals, Inc. is putting information into minds of people which is far from being objective and accurate. Just recently on the Rowan and Martin comedy series, they had successfully encouraged Rowan and Martin to give a report on our activities. The report given by Rowan and Martin was very incorrect and distasteful. This goes to show that Friends of Animals, Inc. can get inaccurate information into the minds of people who have no knowledge of our operation. They are successful with even the most controversial T.V. figures, and get them to report to the nation, information which is far from being the truth. What bothers me and a great many individuals, is that just what exactly does Friends of Animals, Inc. think our nation of intelligent people are? Why do they not report accurate information and information that is objective? It seems possible that they feel our minds cannot tackle objective and accurate information. This, certainly is not saying too much for the people across the nation.

Those who come to the Pribilof's with a fairly open mind are generally satisfied that the seals are dispatched humanely. The operation is so quick and efficient that it elicits surprising little reaction from the tourists who visit the islands. However, representatives from the Friends of Animals, Inc. come up to the islands to satisfy their egocentric tendencies, in that they come for more evidence to substantiate their already established opposition. They also come as individuals who are looking and

observing an operation very narrow minded. There simply is no objective reasoning in their presentations. Our operation is wide open, and nothing is hidden from the people.

I personally feel that Friends of Animals, Inc. is a destructive organization, especially when it comes to our only operation which we are dependant on. They come to the islands and spend a couple of weeks, then proclaim themselves experts. The organization, has not made one constructive suggestion on why the sealing industry should be halted. All they have said is that it should not continue, and have even gone so far as to suggest the removal of all the residents to the mainland. Just who do they think they are by suggesting such an outrageous thing as this? Now I would like to suggest that we of sound mind remove them from New York and their homes and put them somewhere so that they could do something honest and constructive.

Alice Herrington, President of Friends of Animals, Inc. has expressed horror after viewing the operation. She sends a professional cameraman and a director of films to support her campaign to end our program. It's no wonder she expresses horror, for I believe after viewing skillfully edited films, so that all one sees is a bloody mess, I don't blame her. I express horror too everytime I see one of her films. After all, skillful editing of films can easily make any operation appear far worse and even brutal. Another conservationist, however, Margaret Stockton, who represents Cleveland Amory, and his Fund for Animals, also witnessed the operation and appeared satisfied there was no brutality. At least she is open minded and can view an operation such as ours with objectivity. She in this particular case, bases her judgement like many others on tests for new techniques for killing seals. All test results up to date indicate nothing yet that would warrant a change from the present method.

With what I have written in mind, I would like the support of all Alaskans and individuals from other areas to help us keep our only industry which means the survival of the largest Aleut community in the world. Our operation I can honestly and with objectivity say is far more humane than some of the operations carried on in Miss Herrington's home state.