

Minto Councilman Says Land Claim For Future Welfare

(Editor's Note: Thomas Snapp's article in November 19 issue of the Tundra Times was written entirely from the results of an interview with Congressman Ralph J. Rivers.

Snapp did not attend the meeting with Chief Peter John of Minto, Senator Ernest Gruening and Rep. Rivers. Snapp was not aware of Sen. Gruening's views on Minto land assertion area when he wrote the article.)

Minto, Alaska
November 30, 1965

Mr. Snapp:

Your article on land problems in the November 19, 1965 Tundra Times issue was very interesting.

We, the people of Minto, had talked with Mr. Peter John immediately upon his return from Fairbanks and the meeting with the Honorable Congressman Ralph Rivers. Mr. John said that Mr. Rivers spoke as was printed in the Tundra

Times. Senator Gruening was also at that meeting. He spoke in favor of the Minto land claim.

Now I'm wondering why wouldn't you publicize the two sides of the conversation? Why only print Mr. Rivers had to say and ignore Sen. Gruening's side of the argument!

We have seventy children attending schools in Wrangell, Mt. Edgecumbe, and Chemawa. There are two big families out on relocation, plus some of our children who recently graduated. Here in Minto, there are seventy children attending school.

We realize that in the times we are living, one needs a college degree and maybe more to get a job. What are the Minto children going to do in future years?

If the Minto land claim is passed, we will feel as if we have money in the bank. I myself do not believe in aboriginal rights too strongly. I believe if one wants something, he should earn it.

The Minto land claim is a big problem to everyone in Alaska and to some in the Lower States. I realize that the Minto land claim is being watched by almost everyone in Alaska because it will set a pattern for others.

I personally invite you to our meetings here in Minto so you can get an idea what we discuss and I'm sure you will plainly see that we are thinking of the future.

Sincerely,
Lawrence Titus

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