

Hopson Refutes News Publicity

July 28

Letter to the Editor, Anchorage Daily News

Dear Sir:

In reference to an article by Mr. A. Robert Smith on Saturday the 25th; he stated that after the Senate passed the AFN bill, Mr. Hopson went to see the Alaskan Senators and thanked them for their efforts. Apparently Mr. Smith does not appreciate the fact that a word of thanks is worthwhile giving.

As for facts, I had not during my stay in Washington, D.C. met with Mr. Smith. Neither did I see either of the Senators after the Senate passage of the bill. As

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all well informed people will tell you, I think what was accomplished on the Senate side is worth mentioning whether anyone agree with the bill package.

For Mr. Smith to draw his own conclusions as to my visiting the Senators, is his own business, but to imply further that the reason that I went to see them was for inclusion of an amendment for the North Slope is an incorrect statement.

I want the public to know that the amendment for the North Slope was discussed by Ramsey Clark and John Borbridge, Jr. during my absence in Sen. Jackson's office and received support from all three senators. This statement by John Borbridge is printed in the Tundra Times, Wednesday issue, July 22. I also think that while some differences still exist between the native people and the Senate bill, the U.S. Senate deserves our humble thanks.

Eben Hopson

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The AFN bill referred to in the first paragraph was an amendment successfully sought by the AFN to convert a special grant to the North Slope Eskimos of 500,000 acres of full titled land.)