

Natives gave up nothing in ANCSA

To President Bush:

Some time ago, I received answer to my letter from the Department of Interior on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, which I think is unfair to the people of Alaska because our elders don't understand the act.

I, myself, still don't understand ANCSA, whatever it is.

So what I was told was about my rights being extinguished after December 1991. But since I am Alaska Native, my elders never have given their and my rights to anyone, at anytime, to be wiped out by anybody, and it is not right for the U.S. Congress to decide for the people of Alaska without informing them first.

All our lives we have lived off the land and depended on the land and its natural resources, so why would you people want to extinguish our rights to live off our land?

Keep in mind that we are human beings like you. We eat and drink water and sleep like you, and we want to live



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like our ancestors who depended on the land.

Our creator did not create us to take what other people have, as you people are doing to us Alaska Natives in extinguishing our rights to live off the land. We do not depend on paychecks like you people do.

There are not enough jobs in Alaska for us to depend on for subsistence like you rich people do.

Mr. President, you stop and think about what I am writing to you about.

Bring this up to someone who will know that we Alaska Natives are human beings like you, not to be considered as nothing.

Do away with ANCSA, your tool to wipe out Alaska Natives. Do away with ANCSA and give us Alaska Natives a chance to prove ourselves as human beings who can control our land as our ancestors did.

But if you have to work with the Alaska Federation of Natives, I will

not go for that because the people who run AFN don't live like us who live in villages, and they don't care for land and its resources. All they care for is money.

They talk and say they care for land, but they don't care about what happens to village people as long as they are getting paid.

Mr. President Bush, I urge you to pass this on to someone who knows Alaska Natives are human beings, not a toy to play around with.

Since you, yourself, won't answer this letter, I will have copies sent to a few people I know, so they, themselves can think about what they are doing to real people of Alaska.

Mr. President, during my writing this letter, I don't know how many times I looked in the dictionary for words I can't spell. So until the next letter, take care and may God guide you as you do your work being president.

David O. David
Kwigillingok

Hickel will be Alaska's Reagan

To the editor:

Walter Hickel will be Alaska's Ronald Reagan, riding into office on his high horse of perceived voter discontent with the status quo, spewing platitudes and making declarations, but ultimately accomplishing even less than his recent predecessors.

Sure, he'll run off a bunch of dedicated and seasoned state employees so he can bring in his pals and trucklers. But when push comes to shove, Hickel-Reagan will find solace in ceremony and living as royalty in public office.

The Alaska Senate is where real decision-making will occur during the next four years. There, Republicans and Democrats will face Alaska's challenges head-on as they did during the Subsistence Special Session, while Hickel will be trying to keep up with the demands which result from promising everybody everything.

A 72-year-old may say he'll do anything, but as we say with Reagan, sometimes the carriage of government can run away when its driver is napping!

This election shows Alaska apparently isn't ready for a governor who plays by the rules and appeals to reason through political give-and-take. The voters seem to be much more interested in a show of machismo with little or no proven substance.

Fortunately, Arliss Sturgulewski will return to Juneau in January to again resume her duties in the Alaska Senate. Being a mere woman, Gov. Hickel probably won't take her too seriously, but her considerable influence and ability will continue as it has in the past to serve the greatest good for the largest number of Alaskans — while Tony Knowles is making omelettes.

Regretfully,
Donn Liston
Juneau