

Tax act discriminates against poor

The following letter was sent to U.S. Senator Ted Stevens.
Dear Senator Stevens:

* The Tax Equity Act dealing with taxing waitresses on 8 percent of gross receipts is a matter of great concern to myself and to the National Organization for Women. This new law is grossly discriminatory toward low-income people (the vast majority of which are women).

It is possible for a waitress to make much less than 8 percent on a given night or in a given year. Waiters and waitresses in more expensive establishments or metropolitan areas (male dominated) receive a higher percentage of tips than less expensive establishments, rural areas or smaller communities (female dominated).

N.O.W. is very interested in supporting this group of people who represent one of the major portions of the female working force, not to men-

tion the considerable constituency they come in contact with every day.

Until this matter arose, we feel that the issues we sponsored have not effectively touched the lives of these women in the way that this one has. This issue has a great groundswell of grass-roots support, as was demonstrated in the mass of signatures on the repeal petitions which were circulated.

We noted the statement you made on the Educational Television Network when you said that this act was a mistake. With this consideration in mind, as well as your past record of support for many of N.O.W.'s issues and your well-known record for achieving the difficult in Congress (which we view with pride), we decided to appeal to you for assistance.

Our question concerns your intentions regarding this unfair

act. If you have a plan to repeal this act, we would greatly appreciate any information you can give us.

If the act isn't repealed, it will definitely be a major issue in the '84 election campaign for the Alaska State N.O.W. During the last election we were able to endorse candidates on the sole basis of support for the E.R.A. Since so many people have fortunately boarded the E.R.A. bandwagon we will also be dealing with other issues such as this for the '84 elections.

We are confident that you will be able to help us in our efforts to assist this group in their fight against discrimination and unfair treatment, and we thank you for your support in the past.

Sincerely,
Jeradell DeZarn Young
Vice-President - Action
Alaska State N.O.W.

I understand now, Grandpa Steve

Cha-ni

Enclosed is a true story that I wrote about my father's father, Grandpa Steve. It would be an honor for me if you could find space to print it in the Tundra Times. If possible, could you send me a copy of the printing?

"Grandpa Steve --
I Now Understand"

By Paul Yant
Indianapolis, Ind.

As I watch you from the old well pump in the back yard where Aunt Liz has sent me for a pail of water, I am bewildered by your odd behavior. You have stopped in the middle of a row from your hand plowing, not to rest!

You bend down slowly and gently grasping both hands full of freshly plowed earth. As

you stand erect with both arms extended to the sky, you seem much taller than usual. Your body isn't bent over as before from years of hard work.

It seems like a long time that you stand there very still and silent. The wind begins to blow the loose soil from your hands and it seems to fall all around you like a fine mist. Why is Grandpa Steve acting so strange? Has the heat gotten to him?

Not knowing what all this was about, I asked Aunt Liz, when I returned to the old farm house with the water. She tells me that Grandpa Steve is talking to Grandfather.

I accept what she said as in the past my father has told me that Aunt Liz is a Medicine-Woman and I should

always listen very closely to her words and watch even the little things that she does. This has stayed in my mind for a long time.

It is now more than thirty-five years since Grandpa Steve stood in his garden with his face to the Sun and his arms extended. He and Aunt Liz have both gone to the Spirit World but they both taught me some very important things: Respect the Earth, Sky, and Water. Share what you have. Help the animals and birds. Try to live in Harmony not only with the animals but with other people!!!

Brotherly Love and Respect for the World that we Share.

Yes! Grandpa Steve -- I Now Understand.

Paul J. Yant
Indianapolis, Ind.