

SITKA ORTHODOX CHURCH SUPPORTS AFN

The Sitka and Alaska Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church has voiced its support for the Alaska Federation of Natives' efforts to obtain a just settlement of the native land claims issue.

In a letter to the Federation, Secretary to the Bishop Michael

P. Irwin wrote:

"On behalf of His Grace, Bishop Theodosius, I would like to thank your office for sending to us all the information that is now pertinent to the legal aspect of the native land claims question.

It goes without saying that

our dioceses is firmly committed to the issue of a fair and equitable settlement of the native land claims. With a consistent history of commitment to the native peoples of Alaska and with a membership which might be termed "99 and 44/100 per cent pure" our destiny is cast with our

native peoples of Alaska.

May I assure you that we are aware of our moral and ethical responsibility in this matter and you may count on His Grace or any other member of our staff to be at your disposal in regards to this matter.

We sincerely pray for the suc-

cess of this venture, so that our native peoples of Alaska may move into an infinitely brighter and better age for themselves and their descendents.

God bless you all.

Thank you again for remembering us.

Hot Lunch for Rural Schools on State Budget

About 90 of the 107 state operated rural schools will be served hot lunches next year if the proposed budget of the Department of Education is approved by the legislature and the governor.

According to Commissioner of education, Dr. Cliff R. Hartman, 14 state-operated schools now get hot lunches.

Some 65 others receive so-called "cold lunches" which include hot soup, cocoa and sandwiches. The meals are funded under federal grants.

The remaining 28 schools now have no lunch program. Most, Hartman said, are located where the school children can go home for lunch.

However, about 12 to 15 of them are slated to receive hot lunches under the budget proposal.

Whether to charge for the lunches will be left up to the local education advisory boards, Hartman said.

"They may decide to charge 10 cents one year and nothing the next—maybe they'd get no fish that year. I want it to be their decision."

Stressing that no child is going without lunch, he added, "if the teachers or advisory board feels the parents can't afford to pay for it, the children get the lunch anyway."

Hartman has personally come out in favor of a nominal fee. "I feel," he said, "we need to dwell on the principle that all in life isn't free and all services aren't free."

At some state schools there is a charge—10 cents at Ft. Yukon and 25 cents at Bethel, Hartman

Presbyterian Synod Gives AFN \$10,000

W. Wilson Rasco of the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., Synod of Washington-Alaska, informed Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that the United Presbyterian Church has given the AFN \$10,000.

The information was contained in a letter by Rasco dated December 19. It was in response to a letter written by Jim Thomas, AFN public relations, to Dr. Alexander Campbell.

"We received notice of the action on this request yesterday and are very pleased to be able to inform you that \$10,000 has been made available for your public awareness effort as it relates to native land claims," wrote Rasco.

Rasco said that the money will be mailed to the Presbytery office in Seattle, Wash. and it will be made available to AFN upon receiving instructions for proper transmittal.

He said he was grateful that the money has been made available and that in this way they are able to participate with AFN

said. The Bureau of Indian Affairs schools provide free hot lunches.

Requesting a total of \$2,684,000, the budget proposal calls for \$2,014,000 for mobile kitchen and storage units where permanent facilities are not available and \$670,000 to operate the program.

Sen. Bob Blodgett, D-Teller, unsuccessfully attempted to persuade his fellow legislators to fund the project two years ago but called off a threatened fast during the last session saying he had seen some signs of progress.

Letters to the Editor

December 16, 1969
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Mr. Rock:

I agree emphatically with Earl Boise's statement, "Save the Bounty Act and the Dwindling Big Game Herds."

Our dall sheep population in the Alaska Range is down 75 per cent! And everywhere in Alaska it is harder for a hunter to get his meat.

The best book I know of is Stanley P. Young's "Wolves of North America." In the introduction, page 1, he says, "The wolf was everywhere so destructive of domestic stock that constant warfare had to be waged against it."

So sheepherders and cowboys spend their lives protecting herds from predation. On page 2, Mr. Young says, "Expensive control measures, including bounty acts, date back at least to ancient Greece." On page 7, Mr. Young notes that President Theodore Roosevelt (himself a Westerner) characterized the wolf as "the beast of waste and desolation."

The introduction ends with this admonition: "Rigid control must be maintained where their (the wolves) presence clashes with human welfare."

Necessity demands that men drive wolves away from their flocks in the old west. Doesn't the necessity demand that natives also drive wolves away from

their flocks—caribou, moose, sheep? Common sense dictates that it is imperative that they do so.

The historical records of slaughter and waste are all against the wolf. Nobody has ever proved that he did anything good.

Science deals with facts. Our biologists say the wolf belongs in our ecology, balances nature, does good. They suddenly have the wolf in sheep's clothing. It is a malicious myth.

True, you see wolves with the herds of caribou, but that is because they feed on them. Given enough time, the wolves will destroy the entire herd.

Your older hunters have seen wolves slaughter healthy calves and heifers; not picking out the weak and sick, as the "Wolf Men" insists.

On Nunivak Island, 600 musk ox thrive and some 15,000 reindeer. The Eskimos have reindeer meat to sell. Doesn't that refute every contention of the "Wolf Men" and prove conclusively, forever, that wolf-free tundra is best for man and beast. Wolves don't do the game good, because they can't!

We are in a population explosion, and you need every big game animal your vast, fertile tundra can produce.

Sincerely,
Paul Elbert

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The MEN OF THE TUNDRA is a book that gave credit where it's due. Muktuk Marston praised the ability of Alaska's native men under war time conditions. He commanded the Alaska Territorial Guard with understanding, defended them from discrimination. Major Marston formed a fine nucleus for the present crack native battalions of the Alaska National Guard. Muktuk tells the epic tale with humor and, above all, with ever present understanding of the men he worked with. A fine reading.

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