

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Editorial—

The Wrong Thrust At the Wrong Time

Many of our native people in Alaska had to sit ill at ease once again last week at the conclusion of the president of the Arctic Slope Native association Joe Upicksoun's testimony before the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs where he threatened with political defeat Chairman Wayne N. Aspinall of the Interior Committee and Chairman James A. Haley of the Indian Affairs Subcommittee.

The verbal altercation stemmed from Upicksoun's dislike of the Aspinall land claims bill. Lot of us don't like that bill either and have said so publicly in a manner we thought was right.

Joe Upicksoun is fighting for his people but the manner in which he is doing it can cause grave setbacks that might be irreparable. In our opinion, one don't insult venerable men like Aspinall and Haley in the manner Upicksoun did. They are the elected officials of their respective states and they are highly respected members of the Congress of the United States. Even though they are highly placed in the country's government, they can be criticized—and they can be criticized rather severely but with a good measure of dignity they deserve. They have earned this respect in performing their duties for long years for their people back home and for their country.

We feel that we are duty-bound to try to make amends with Aspinall and Haley in the face of the recent disturbing event. This we do gladly and with sincerity. This we do with consciousness of the recognition we have gained as the voice of the native people of Alaska. We also hope that Donald Wright as president of the Alaska Federation of Natives do likewise. Perhaps other leaders can join him in this because all of us have a great stake in the struggle for equitable settlement of the Alaska native land claims.

Editorial—

The 3,000 Foot Level Real Estate

There has been very special efforts put forth to point out the purported undesirability of Alaskan real estate at 3,000 foot level and up. Some of the critics of the Alaska native land claims and Johnny Come Latels are grudgingly saying that by the time the Alaska natives are awarded lands after the settlement, the state won't have much left to select in the lowlands and might have to be forced to select lands at 3,000 foot level and above.

We are at a loss to see why the 3,000 foot level land is worthless. We have seen some of the most beautiful real estate in the Mt. McKinley National Park area that must be at or above the level. Besides, it is the habitat of the most wonderful array of wild animal that must be the envy of much of the world. There must be much more land like that in the rest of the great mountainous areas of Alaska.

Perhaps it might be wise to suggest that the Alaska natives and their leaders ask a bit less than 60 million acres they are asking for land settlement and then ask to get all the land at 3,000 foot level and above. There shouldn't be too much objection to this because of the loud objections to Alaska's native people selecting lands in the lowlands.

- GALENA AREA CURRENTS - Native Materials for Housing Program

By JOHN SACKETT

The concept that Alaska's rural people will have the opportunity available to them to have decent housing by which to build and care for their families and the fact that this is a now program and not a pipe dream in the distant future is difficult to realize.

For years now different people have talked and talked about the plight of the rural people and how they were the forgotten part of a prosperous nation, but nothing was even done except on a piece meal basis.

With the implementation of the new housing program created and approved by the Nixon Administration we will finally see a program of great building equal in part only to the great need. 1,200 houses will be built in the coming two years and Senator Ted Stevens told a recent housing conference in Anchorage that there is an excellent possibility that an additional 1,200 homes will be approved after that.

Based on the number of houses that have been built in villages under the present remote housing program of the Alaska State Housing Authority of 20-30 homes per village this will mean that 60-100 villages throughout Alaska will be able to participate. Together with the 40 or so villages already receiving houses this will just about cover the entire need.

The type of construction anticipated in the houses will be of vital importance in the coming months as various people in the higher echelon of government decide whether to use material from the states, pre-cut houses, or utilizing our native materials.

Three years ago as an executive member of remote housing I pushed for at least partial use of our native materials such as three sided logs and lumber and 2 X 4 type material cut by mills in interior Alaska. I was a lone voice at the time and so all material and millions of dollars were spent on contractors in Seattle. The reasoning then was that lumber outside was cheaper; however over a three year period the costs have risen 40% and good timber still stands along the Tanana, Yukon, and Kuskokwim.

Today interior Alaska has absolutely no industry and its only resource is timber. If people are interested in trying to create something other than dependency on governmental agencies for the people in the interior then there has to be a concerted effort made by all to request the Alaska State Housing Authority, AFN, and the governor's office to require the use of native materials.

Remember, there are no existing market and nothing forthcoming so it takes a building concept envisioned by this remote housing to make work available to a large group of people, and we will all lose if over \$10,000,000 is again sent to a group of contractors outside the state.

While housing is excellent it is not enough to keep a family alive. It is my sincere hope that through the participation of the native people in the decision making phase of construction that every effort will be made to search out all available resources in building and hopefully this project will become something more than building houses.

Seppilu Postmaster at Savoonga

Fred Huleen, Seattle regional director for the U. S. Postal Service, announced last week that Jacob N. Seppilu, 56, of Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island was appointed postmaster at his village.

Seppilu has been acting postmaster since January, 1968.

He has lived at his village all his life, is married with 8 children. He holds a diploma in business management.

Poem—

Lupa

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Oliver Everett, Poet Laureate of Alaska, died last week at the University of Alaska. Through the last several years, Everett has sent Tundra Times quite a few of his poems for publication. He submitted the following poem, "LUPA", not long ago. We would like to contribute to his memory by printing it.)

I did not open my door to the gray apostle.
Through my cabin window his eyes searched me,
read me. He understood me and the dark fire that he kindled in me.

With a toss of his head and flick of his plumed tail he left me. —The Dogs howled at the gray shadow gliding under the birches; they did not love the sage of outer darkness who had enriched me in wisdom by his silent visit.

OLIVER EVERETTE
Fairbanks

Flood Projection Extended

The town of Nenana is sandbagged with railroad cars standing by to carry out valuables. Fairbanks city fathers have made final revision of emergency flood plans.

Supplies have been moved to second stories in villages along the rivers. But the great flood of 1971 is definitely late.

Waters were expected to crest some time this week. Now the

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Letter to Editor

May 10, 1971

Dear Sir:

In answer to recent publication on church and welfare, and magistrate problems at Aniak. I have lived at Aniak this past winter. I would like to commend the welfare on their good relationship with the local church at Aniak.

I feel that Aniak is fortunate to have a magistrate who has served in this capacity for a number of years doing a fine job. The record bears this out. I have also enjoyed working with the local pastor there, who has a licensed foster home. He only receives children authorized to him by the welfare.

I am sure any further statements made in the recent article is a negative goal to suit the wishes of those opposing the welfare, magistrate and church.

We live in a day of revolution some for good and some for evil. I believe the above mentioned has been for good. May the Divine hand be their guide.

In regard to the past letter being authorized by the local Aniak teaching staff—six teachers make up this staff. In that all their signatures did not accompany this letter I challenge this as being supported by the staff.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Richard L. Potter



Alaska's King Island Eskimo dancers will be among the featured personalities at the Sealaska travel and trade fair, May 13-23, at the Seattle Center in Seattle. Other highlights of the free 11-day Alaska celebration will be more than 50 exhibits, Chilkat Indian dancers and the New Archangel Dancers, entertainer and poet Larry Beck, totem pole and ivory carvers, and more.

ARTIFACTS WANTED! If you are going to sell old-time objects, please contact the Alaska State Museum first. If you have old-time things that need special care, you can lend them to the Museum for safe-keeping and display. If your things are in the Alaska State Museum, they stay in Alaska. Contact: Jane Wallen, Director, Alaska State Museum, Pouch FM, Juneau, Alaska 99801, phone 586-1224.

