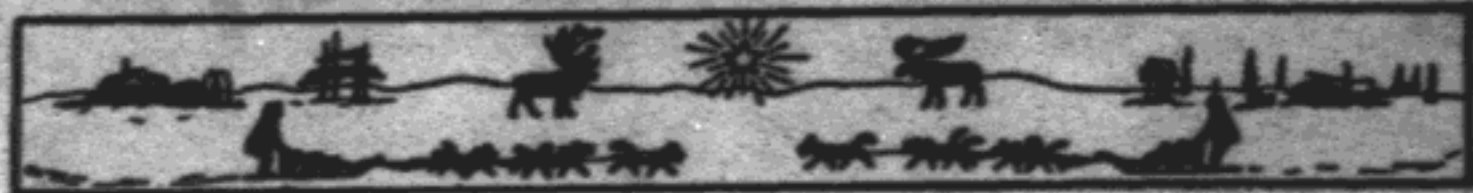


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." - Voltaire

Tundra Times



Owned, controlled and edited by Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company, a corporation of Alaska natives. Published at Fairbanks, Alaska, weekly, on Friday.

Address all mail to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Telephone 452-2244.

Entered at the Post Office at Fairbanks, Alaska, as second class matter under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. Board of Directors Executive Committee: Howard Rock, president; Thomas Richards, vice president; Clara Anderson, secretary; Jimmy Bedford, comptroller; Mrs. Ralph Pardo, assistant secretary. HOWARD ROCK, editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Regular Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$ 8.00	6 Months \$ 4.50
Air Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$19.00	6 Months \$10.00

Editorial—

Progress Worthy of Note

On February 8-9-10 in Anchorage, Senator Henry M. Jackson, State of Washington, and chairman of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, will be conducting native land claims hearing. He, and those who will come with him from Washington, D. C., will listen to the complex land situation in Alaska and form, we surmise, opinions as to what might be the best way to solve the land problem.

During a comparatively short period of time here in Alaska, there has been progressive talks between the native leaders, the State and the Interior Department on the land problem. Something, or someone, has hit the right key and although no final solution to the land claims has been reached, there has been good progress, if not a great one, up to this point. These are things that should be driven home to Senator Jackson and his group.

Not much over a year ago, the land situation in Alaska threatened to develop into an impasse. When the present state administration came into office almost two years ago, its attitude toward land claims was anything but liberal. Pointed statements for the state capital began to anger the native leaders and the land problem began to develop into a seething arena of inflamed war of words. It was disturbing and it affected many people. The weight of this worry might have caused it to quiet down and that was fortunate indeed. From that time on, although reluctantly at the beginning, things began to change for the better.

One of the important turning points, we believe, was when the State made steps to liberalize its views toward the native land claims. This will have to be termed as a most surprising development in the Alaska land picture.

The change of attitude of the State became apparent at the October conference of the Alaska Federation of Natives in Anchorage this year through the words of the State Attorney General Edgar P. Boyko. His statements then, one might say, were taken with a grain of salt, although some of the native leaders expressed surprise and cautious optimism.

Then just prior to the visit of the Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall to Alaska, Governor Walter J. Hickel established the Land Claims Task Force Committee in connection with the State Rural Affairs Agency. This body met for the first time in Anchorage on November 20. There, the Attorney General came out more clearly in presenting the State's liberalized views toward land claims. He said he agreed that the native claims were just; that they should be recognized; that they should be dealt with in a liberal manner towards arriving at an equitable solution. He also urged that there should be a three-way working agreement between the native

NCAI Director Urges Indians Take Part in Education Plans

John 'Belindo, Executive Director of The National Congress of American Indians, stressed the need for Indian participation in the formulation and evaluation of Indian education programs in testimony December 15 before the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Education of the Committee on Labor and Welfare.

The stated purpose of the two-day hearings of the newly-formed special Subcommittee, chaired by Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York, was to search for answers among the Indians themselves.

Belindo expressed the hope that this kind of open forum will become the accepted method of dealing with other Indian issues of major importance.

He stated that in the past the closed door meetings of the Senate or House Interior and Insular Affairs Committees and various Executive Task Forces have denied the Indian people of any method of persuasion or communication.

"These consensus seekers behind closed doors are exposed to the constant temptation to release only those findings that suit their purposes," he said. "There is no one to keep them honest."

Belindo proposed the establishment of a separate agency—an Office of Indian Education Resources Evaluation—to undertake the systematic evaluation of current Indian education programs.

The agency's most important feature would be its staff of Indian as well as non-Indian professional educators who would regularly assess the results of government

(continued on page 6)

leaders, the State and the Interior Department with a purpose of drafting a new bill that would be acceptable to the three parties.

Then on November 21, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall came to Anchorage to meet with the native leaders. He also urged a three-way working agreement. His statements regarding this subject had the cementing effect on that idea discussed by the Land Task Force the day before.

Secretary Udall also surprised the native leaders when he tossed in a suggestion that the native people be allowed to take a percentage of the revenues from the Outer Continental Shelf in lieu of the Court of Claims proceedings. This idea has met with favor among the native leaders.

The three-way working agreement has now been well established and up to this point, the efforts have been harmonious. The progress the participants have made, we believe, has been productive, forward looking and hopeful. We further hope that this "good climate" will continue to exist because the problem at hand is most urgent and that the solution they arrive at finally will benefit all.

These are things that should be driven home to Senator Jackson and his group. Perhaps his committee should be asked to fall behind the progress that has been made by the native leaders, the State and the Interior Department.

Editorial—

He Alerted the Native People on Lands

Richard D. Mueller has lost his fight as far as reinstatement to his job is concerned. He lost it in the first place while trying to alert the Interior Indians that the George Lake area lands were being considered for sale as wilderness estates at the New York Worlds Fair over two years ago by the Alaska Division of Lands. Mueller was the lease sales manager with the Division at the time. He made a trip to Fairbanks to notify the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management that something might be remiss in the State Land Division plan; that the area in question might, in fact, be under Indian claim. It turned out that it was. For that action, Mueller was fired by his department for being absent without leave.

Mueller's efforts, and the resulting difficulties he had to undergo, may not have been for naught. He alerted the native people of things that could happen to them if they did not watch out. Now the lands question seems to be well on the way to being solved and Richard Mueller's painful efforts might have helped along the way. The native people should give him a vote of thanks for his unselfish efforts in their behalf.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

He Helped the Natives

6734 Linden St.
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Mr. Rock and staff of the Tundra Times,

We are very much disheartened by the ruling of the Personnel Board. They ruled that my absence without leave and my unauthorized trip to Fairbanks was in defiance of established policy; and therefore just cause for firing. Since the members of the board are all employers, lacking in legal experience and knowledge of the intricacies of land selection, disposal and policy; it is understandable, that within the narrow confines of their thinking, such a decision was reached. However, we did get the hearing, and the people directly responsible for firing me, had to publicly voice their reasons to the board. In spite of the witnesses and exhibits presented in support of my action, the board chose to interpret the evidence in

(Continued on page 6)

Anaktuvuk Pass Kiddies Write About Village

From THE NUNAMIUT NEWS
Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska

ALLAN PANEAK, 6th Grade: The smaller kids have been having school. Their having a head start program. The teacher is Thomas Rulland and the aid is Robert Paneak.

Every school day they go to school. But in our own school we are much smarter than they are. But our teacher is more modern.

DOROTHY AHGOOK, 4th Grade: We had two visitors named Tom Healy and Miss Oakes. She gave us reading test. And it was very easy words. She had Eskimo shoes. She said someone made them.

Tom Healy came to fix our light plant. We said thank you for fixing our light plant. Our friends are Tom Healy and Miss Oakes.

CHARLIE HUGO: Sliding is the most important thing I like to play. Sliding is good. I like to slide down the hill. I have no sled. But sliding is very good.
I slide with skins.