

*"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 AFN Unity Must Be Guarded

The sizzling lawyer controversy in recent weeks, we believe, was a difficult practical lesson the Alaska Federation of Natives have yet encountered and absorbed. Although the statewide native federation, in our opinion, came out the battered winner, we believe the leadership within it should from now on keep a strict surveillance for new difficulties to arise from some unexpected corner. It might be a good idea for the leadership to fully expect this to happen so it can be met with good, effective counters. To be alert is to be forearmed. This will have to be a necessary preparedness before the organization can at last set down to do its routine work for the resolution of the great native problems and development of the needs of their people.

The lawyer controversy threatened to undermine whatever unity the federation had. Although the unity base tottered a bit for a while, the impact and threat of the problem also had a unifying effect which ultimately strengthened with the resulting fact that the AFN is now more unified than it had ever been before. This was a hard won achievement and it should be guarded well for the good of the native people. Losing it would result in a chaotic mess and the real losers would be the big mass of the native people of Alaska. Such a breakdown would be catastrophic to say the least.

The native leadership is aiming for the achievement of a meaningful future for their people. To pursue this with honor and diligence means the greatest good for those the native leaders seek to help. To attain the end results in this manner can be historic and honor for those who labor for its realization.

From here on in, the biggest necessity will have to be the guardianship of the achievement of unity within the AFN. This has been realized through much difficulty but having been done in such a manner should make it a stronger one than it had ever been before. It must be kept strong because there may yet be some efforts to undermine it. Surveillance for such an eventuality should be the watchword and no letup should be allowed.

## REFLECTIONS . . .

“. . . Probably the most significant happening in the oil business in Alaska at this time is the big overland move of British Petroleum drilling equipment, from the Colville River to a spot near the Ikillik River, where an exploratory well is to be drilled . . .

“The Ikillik River is on the Arctic Slope near the western border of the nine million acre Arctic Wildlife Range and southeast of Umiat . . .”

Does the above quote sound quite current? It was current news on Monday, December 2, 1963 issue of the TUNDRA TIMES.

# Kodiak Area Corp Granted Delegate Status by RurALCAP

The Kodiak Area Community Development Corp (KACDC) was granted delegate status by the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurALCAP) Board of Directors on June 3, 1969, the first day of the RurALCAP Board meeting with the condition that Kodiak execute

## Villagers Asked To Back Leaders

Birch Creek, Alaska  
June 12, 1969

Emil Notti, President  
Alaska Federation of Natives

Dear Mr. Notti:

The recent resignation of Arthur Goldberg and the great variety of land claims settlement proposals and comments that come to us in the mail make us think the land claims will never be settled unless the Alaska natives speak with one voice. We cannot possibly read the great stacks of literature that come to us, and even if we could, we still would not have the background and perspective that would allow us to judge them perfectly. We want to be able to trust one single native association to look after our best interests, and we think it's much more desirable to have the land claims settled soon, rather than letting them drag on and on, wasting everyone's time.

We want the Alaska Federation of Natives to speak for us. We support your efforts in our behalf, and we're inclined to think there's no point in supporting other associations. We'd be glad to have any comments you might care to make on this.

Birch Creek Village Council  
Margaret Martin  
Lawrence Martin  
David James  
Neil James

Beaver Village  
Affairs Committee  
Beaver, Alaska 99724  
May 28, 1969

Dear Emil:

In the past the native people of the Interior have had no voice in the affairs which concerned them, rather they tended to accept the decisions made by the non-native in Washington and other positions of authority.

This old way cannot continue. We need a voice that has a possibility of being heard. We need to be allowed to make some of the decisions which affect our lives and affairs in order to stand as men and women of a proud race and tradition in a rapidly changing world.

It is our opinion that such a voice is being heard in the form of the native leadership of the native federations and councils.

Unfortunately, these leaders have had to stand alone for us to the outside with little or no interest, help, or support from the people who they stand for—the small villager.

Let this paper stand as our support of the native leadership and organizations as they talk for us. Let them help us gain back our pride! Let them help us in our ability to “talk” to the outside culture! Let them help us make the changes necessary to be men and women in this changing world!

Sincerely,  
/s/ Paul Williams  
Committee Secretary

the prerequisites required during the next six months.

The Kodiak Corp requested and was granted consideration of delegate status by the RurALCAP Board last Feb., 1969. RurALCAP will review Kodiak's request at the end of the six-month period about Jan. 1, 1970 and finalize their decision.

The prerequisites Kodiak must complete are:

(1) complete draft work on the corporation (including priorities, center operations, time table, written project proposals for priorities categorized into short and long-ranged goals);

(2) Submit an official request to the RurALCAP Board to proceed according to work program including activities exclusive of funded programs and projects;

(3) Communicate between the Western Regional Field Representative, Kodiak, and the RurALCAP central staff relative to specific questions, programs, problems and OEO guidelines;

(4) Submit contract deliberation for delegate agency status including OEO and RurALCAP guidelines; and finally to

(5) Submit a signed contract at a later date as scheduled.

A resolution passed in Feb., 1969 by the RurALCAP Board required all boards of RurALCAP delegate status agencies to be at least 50 per cent target population representatives in order to be beneficiaries of Rur-

ALCAP funds. This resolution was made to assure the low-income people being served, the major voice in anti-poverty programs for their areas.

The regulation also will apply to the boards of regional development corporations and to any other delegate boards set up for special projects being funded partially or wholly by RurALCAP.

George Irvin, OEO field representative for the Western Region, reviewed the RurALCAP refunding requisites in three basic steps to clarify RurALCAP's responsibility of executing the rural anti-poverty programs in Alaska.

The steps in order are: paper process and planning; field review; and final budget and requests.

In order for RurALCAP to fulfill these requisites, RurALCAP must have received from all its delegate agencies draft work of all projects and programs in their areas, said Irvin. RurALCAP acts as the umbrella agency and intermediate between OEO and the delegate agencies.

Irvin explained this gives the people of the villages the authority to administer their own programs and projects and they have a voice about how the programs should be run. OEO was set up as a means to start the fight against poverty and has approximately 1200 CAA's all over the country.

## Writers Express Concern Over Likely Loss of VISTA Lawyers

May 27, 1969

Mr. William Allen  
Coordinator-VISTA  
Box 1957  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Willie:

I would be unable to list one by one the services provided to us, the people and native groups in our area of Northwest Alaska, by the VISTA lawyer, Gordon (Spike) Stein. I now am informed that we might be losing the total or a number of our VISTA attorneys.

The legal service program has more than proved its value to the people who previously could not afford the fees charged by a lawyer. Plus, and of more importance, the people now have become aware that they as poor people are being considered as people with rights and these rights apply not only to those who can afford to pay for them.

It would be a great set-back to have such a service, and when the need still remains to remove it.

If this worthy program is to be dropped the people will want an answer. Be prepared.

Sincerely,  
(Mrs.) Verna Mickelson  
Center Director

May 26, 1969

Mr. William A. Allen  
Coordinator - VISTA  
Box 1957  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Allen:

I was made aware of a very disturbing situation about the VISTA lawyer program either being substantially reduced or eliminated entirely. Firstly, I am an employee of Rural Alaska Community Action Program and the only reason I am stating this

is because I cover eight villages in the Bering Strait area and have first hand knowledge of the area.

Secondly, before the introduction of the VISTA lawyer program, our native people had no one to turn to for legal advise and representation in civil matters. Since the VISTA lawyers became a reality through Alaska Legal Services, our native (Eskimo) people have had extensive legal advise, services, and representation in civil cases. I would even recommend extending Alaska Legal Services to where they can cover criminal cases also.

I very strongly feel and believe in the VISTA lawyer program. Our people have never had access to legal advice much less services and/or representation. We have used the VISTA lawyers in forming our Regional Development Board into legal entities and have received advice whenever it was needed.

Our village people have used the services of the VISTA lawyers in forming their own incorporated cooperatives, in adoptions, divorces, collection of non-payment of wages, incorporation of villages into 4th Class Cities whereby these matters would still be existing problems today crying for attention.

In closing, we need the VISTA lawyers.

Sincerely,  
Alvin Kavouktuk  
Area Community Developer

**WANTED:** Chilkat Blankets; totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; pot-latch bowls; fish hooks; spoons and all N.W. items 50 years of age or older. Send photo or sketch and prices to: Albert T. Miller, 2235 West Live Oak Drive, Los Angeles, California 90028.