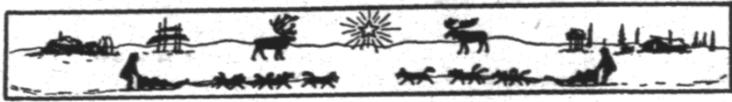


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Editorial— The Importance of The 35,000-Copy Issue

No matter how one looks at it, the native land claims issue in Alaska is developing into a human drama seldom, if ever, equaled in the state's history. It has all the aspects of a dramatic moment in the course of time. Its uniqueness is unquestionable—almost, it might seem to many, improbable because its focus is popularly centered in the Arctic regions of Alaska while including all of the native people throughout the state. The issue has its call for justice for the native people as its main ingredient. It is calling for justice from the highest governmental entity, the national administration and the Congress of the United States thousands of miles away.

The land issue has its powerful opposition. It is also gaining popular support of the general public of the United States. The national conscience is being stirred, its voice adding to the call for justice at last for the native people of the state in their quest for the equitable settlement of their land problems. Truly, the issue has all the ingredients of a powerful drama—its stage, the length and breadth of the nation. The curtain is about to be raised. The growing audience is waiting expectantly to evaluate the performances of those who will play the important roles.

Thinking that the drama is of paramount importance to Alaska's native people and many of our other readers, the Alaska Federation of Natives' public relations office, the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians, and the Tundra Times are pooling their facilities to put out a 35,000-copy issue of the Tundra Times to be distributed to all or most of the native families throughout Alaska. The target date of the publication is Friday, December 19.

The purpose of the special issue is to further acquaint our native people with the meaning of the land legislation that is about to begin in earnest in Congress. The most recent developments in connection with land claims will be pointed out. True perspectives to the greatest extent possible will be sought. The stands of the opposition will be singled out as compared with the positions taken by the native people and their friends.

We want to, also, alert the responsible people in villages and towns to make sure that the special issue is promptly distributed in their communities. There will be no charge for it. It is a duty asked so that our people will be further informed on what the land legislation will be all about. It will serve as a good source of reference for future developments concerning land claims. It will serve as an additional background for those developments as Congress molds the future of our people for decades to come.

Along with our native leaders and their legal counsels, we will be watching very closely and inform accordingly. We will watch Congress as it fashions the foundation of our future and hope that this foundation will be firmly established for the good of all in Alaska.

Letters to the Editor

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Lt. Fred Rosenblum wrote the following letter to Senators Javits and Goodell and Congressman Podell all from New York. It was also submitted to Tundra Times as a letter to the editor.)

CMR 5, 1976
APO Seattle 98737
6 December 1969

Dear Sir:

I am from Brooklyn—I am presently stationed at Eielson Air Force Base, near Fairbanks, Alaska. I have been here a year and a half. In that time, the major concerns of most Alaskans have been the Prudhoe Bay oil strike and the Alaskan Native Land Claims issue.

The viewpoint of many non-Native Alaskans is that the Land Claims proposal of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is an attempt to steal something (land, money, minerals) from the non-Natives. These non-Natives ignore the fact that the Natives were in Alaska long before the non-Natives. They ignore the fact that the Natives still use all of, in fact, more land than, the land they are claiming. (It is the oil companies who intrude on Native land, not the other way around.) They ignore the fact that the acts on which the Native Land Claims is based preceded the Alaskan Statehood Act. Finally, they ignore the fact, which has been pointed out by Senator Gravel, that the Natives would long ago have had title to their land and to all of the minerals under it if only they had been white. (Chief Andrew Isaac of Tanacross is a case in point—he has been trying since at least 1950 to get his tribe formal title to its land.)

The AFN proposes a fair and just settlement—fair to both Natives and non-Natives. Under it, the Alaskan Natives would get what is really a modest price (in land, money, and royalty) for giving up their claim—from time immemorial—to all of Alaska. I urge you to support the AFN proposal.

Sincerely yours,
Fred Rosenblum

P.O. Box 1941
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
6 December, 1969

Dear Editor:

Yesterday I was surprised at your editorial, "Salvation for Wolf Coming at Last?"

Mother Nature doesn't balance things out with your people in mind. Native people have starved by the thousands, (at times whole villages) because Mother Nature didn't produce enough game.

White men have learned to intelligently help Mother Nature by domesticating wild animals so that they could always have meat. In biblical times boys tended their flocks all day and old men guarded them all night from wolves.

It would be absolutely intolerable to us to let wolves prey on our live stock. If we did we couldn't feed ourselves and out of our abundance help you natives.

Russia is busily exterminating wolves because their people don't need wolves as much as they need the game the wolves destroy.

When you natives get your land claims settled, you should stop outside guides, hunters and trappers from poaching and kill off all the wolves because they poach 365 days a year. If you intelligently help Mother Nature

you just might have a 'Happy Hunting Ground' for your people. Mother Nature does make mistakes and wolves are one of her worst.

Moreover wolves are not needed so that the best breed to the best. Bull moose and caribou fight for that privilege and the best usually win. Every other argument in favor of the wolf is just as ridiculous. Yours for a Happy Hunting Grounds.

Sincerely,
Paul Elbert

829 S. Bragaw
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

Dear Editor:

I find it necessary to appeal in reluctance to my fellow natives and to the public in general.

The organizing of the AFN Alaska Federation of Natives was formed in pattern of democracy but there are some people who question its legality.

The officials and the leaders were duly elected and vested with authority to represent its statewide membership in seeking settlement of the so called controversial Alaska Native Land Claims.

These men are doing exactly that, but are being blamed for other matters for which they have no voice whatsoever. Such as holding down state progress, the land freeze, etc., etc.

Actually the guilty party is the anti native state administration supported by at least some district legislators plus other organizations' of predominantly white or, pro white membership.

Who does the state and these people wish to talk settlement with? When they refuse to recognize the effort of our congressional delegation and the AFN. Further more if the state aims eventual responsibility of the educational and other demanding services for the natives, it surely is making poor reputation now.

And this is not to mention potential trusteeship of money land or, interest from the settlement of the land claims. I believe it is unfortunate for the entire

population of our state, when our human relations are being disturbed and frustrated by those whom we should rely upon. In spite of the fact that damage has been done now, and therefore cannot be undone presently.

We as natives should become even more aware that we are permanently involved with the state form of government and so therefore should learn to play a very peculiar politics. Knowing that we are distinct, it is a must for us to stand in unity. This of course will be a hard pill for some of us to swallow. Never the less the rightful place and choice of every native casting ballot should be for the man who deserves our vote. The party can only be secondary.

Every precaution should be exercised to avoid repeating the harmful mistakes in placing wrong people in power over us.

I believe every Eskimo, Aleut and Indian owes a hearty generous gratitude to honorable Senator Ted Stevens for his outstanding effort in trying to cooperate with the AFN and others involved in seeking acceptable settlement. I regret to admit that I have never voted for Senator Stevens in the past, and I have a reason to believe that I may not be alone. I also believe Senator Ted Stevens will not soon decline from public service.

So opportunity to express our appreciation is open. Finally I wish to assure my fellow native people to be unselfish to those who are trustworthy and considerate. For hard feelings and revenge does not heal but further destroy. Only constructive attitude can repair our once friendly relations with each other.

This requires each one of us individually to do our share in our every day life and in our own area. By simply avoiding hatred, and make every effort to give room for kindness to those around us. Perhaps just a smile will here and there. In conclusion make the best of coming holidays.

Very Sincerely,
Stanton O. Katchatag

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