

Airman's Rebuttal...

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the real "topper" was the question about the wives and children. The two prisoners from Kaltag were both on assault and battery charges and the complainants in both cases were their wives!

Now let me throw the question back at you. What about their wives and children? I'm sure their wives are concerned about dignity and respect. . . concerned all the way to the hospital with black eyes, scared faces, and missing teeth that all came from the hand of a dignified, self-respecting husband. Now who will speak in their defense?

I stood guard over one of the Galena prisoners after he had escaped and was apprehended for the second time by the state trooper. The prisoner said he was hungry, so the trooper drove back to the village and bought this man food. The trooper was called away again and after he had left, the prisoner started throwing his food on the floor and stepping on it. Now isn't that a perfect example of dignity and self-respect?

I do agree with Fr. Convert and Mr. Madros that holding facilities are greatly needed here in Galena. However, why doesn't Galena receive assistance from Kaltag and surrounding villages. After all, the jail would accommodate prisoners of this area, not just Galena alone. Approximately one year ago there was a town council meeting held here in Galena and they asked surrounding villages for help in erecting a new jail.

They refused stating that it was not their concern. Two years ago the Air Force Site Commander here at Galena offered the village free use of our heavy equipment and vehicle operators for the purpose of renovating the village land and starting a site for a town hall-jail combination. The only thing the village had to do was supply men for the labor. Needless to say they refused, only after asking what they would get paid for this work. It kind of makes you stop and think, doesn't it?

A Galena native that you interviewed stated that the state shop where the prisoners were held was cold and had a concrete

floor. Yes, it has a concrete floor, but it's as warm as your house or mine and it also has bathroom facilities.

The man who guarded the prisoners overnight slept in the same place they did, but no one seems to be concerned about him. What about his dignity and self respect?

In this article there was also a statement made that other sources indicate that the chainings have been ordered by magistrates. I can only defend the honor of our own Galena magistrate, who was once my employer and has been a very good friend of mine in the 13 months I've spent here. The magistrate has her job and the trooper has his.

There is advise given, but there has never been an order given by our magistrate such as the one indicated here. If you want to be concerned about someone, be concerned about magistrate and state trooper. They remind me a little of miracle workers. They are given so little to work with, yet they always manage to turn out such a good quality of work.

On many occasions I've seen our Galena magistrate lend a helping hand to the needy. I can't help but feel that through her unselfish acts she has prevented many law violations here in Galena, as well as our neighboring villages. And then there is our state trooper, he comes to the bush on a commercial plane, not permitted to use his own.

Half of his job is based merely on weather conditions. Don't forget, he doesn't have one village to take care of, he has an entire area to cover by himself. If he was to use his personal aircraft it would be cheaper, and it would also alleviate the trouble of waiting for a commercial flight.

If you want to be concerned about someone, be concerned about the people who are doing a big, big favor just by doing their job, for you and me.

Of course I realize you can't please everyone. If these prisoners had not been so well restrained and had broken loose, there would always be someone there to say the trooper didn't do his job. So what can he do? He can

Native Commission...

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expedite the claims and to perform other functions to carry out the provisions of the Act.

"In order to facilitate and encourage a fair settlement of these land claims between the Alaska natives and the federal government, it is considered in the best interest of the state to make a reasonable contribution to the settlement on the part of the state, by providing that certain royalties or shares of the proceeds derived from state lands be made available to native groups in Alaska as compensation for relinquishment of part of their claims based on aboriginal use and occupancy of land in Alaska, and thereby to settle with finality all such land claims of Alaska natives insofar as the State of Alaska is concerned."

Rep. John Schwamm, Democrat from Anchorage area, told the Anchorage press, "It is my understanding that the legislative intent of the bill was to aid in the settlement of the land claims issue. I was elected after the Fifth Legislature, and can only quote from what I see written in plain English."

Ed Boyko, who was Attorney General when the law was passed, thinks that Secretary Ward has not read the bill very clearly. Rep. Schwamm had the similar feeling.

"The act," Boyko stated, "provided for the seven members to be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature. The original bill was prepared by the governor's task force. I redrafted it, and the redraft was approved by the task force."

Secretary Ward has some support from Sen. Brad Phillips, a Republican, who said that although he did not recall all of the particulars of the bill, he was certain that the act was meant only to show Congress that the state was willing to cooperate on the settlement of the claims issue.

"From recollections, without reviewing the act," Sen. Phillips told the Anchorage Daily News "I remember that at the time the general feeling by all involved was that it was designed to put the responsibility on the shoulders of Congress."

Commenting on the matter, Sen. Lowell Thomas, Jr. said that Article 1 of the act specifically provided that the commission was to be activated by April 15, 1969, if Congress did not act on the claims issue.

"Only the royalty," Sen. Thomas said, "was tied in the act to the lifting of the land freeze, not the setting up of the commission."

Native Foods Also— THEATA Bazaar

The native students organization at the University of Alaska, the THEATA Club, is putting on a bazaar tomorrow September 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Sub Lounge on the campus.

The native collegians will be selling native handicrafts such as mukluks, mittens, yo-yos, dolls, carvings of ivory and soapstone, slippers with beadwork, and grass baskets. The club members will be selling the items.

After the sale, a potlatch is

Village Rejects 'Ohgsenakale'

The people of Portage Creek have petitioned the Secretary of the State of Alaska to incorporate as a 4th class city.

The village has chosen to incorporate in order to comply with Section 9 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1969 which allows each Native village to organize as a corporation.

The village also hopes to benefit from state and federal projects restricted to municipalities.

When the village people considered incorporating, they voted to reject the name Ohgsenakale used by the United States Post Office Department instead of Portage Creek, the original and more familiar name.

Dinner Party

The Central Alaska Democratic Club cordially invites all citizens of Fairbanks and vicinity to their annual informal Christmas dinner party to be held at the Fairbanks Inn, Saturday, Dec. 13th.

Guest speaker for the gala no-host event will be United States Senator Mike Gravel with Alaska State Senator Ed Merdes as Master of Ceremonies.

Cocktail hour from 7 to 8 and dinner from 8 'till??

For advance reservations call 456-5001 or the Fairbanks Inn.

Tickets will also be available at the door.

do his job right and to the best of his ability, as he has been doing, and say "Phooey" on your opinion and mine!

The Tundra Times has a saying printed at the head of each issue, it reads, "Speak the Absolute Truth," let me add to this by saying, speak the absolute truth, but know the truth before you speak it.

Sno-gos..

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Barrow is about \$80, he added.

A spokesman for Alaska Airlines could not be reached.

In the letters to Senators Mike Gravel and Ted Stevens and Congressman Howard Pollock, the manager of ANICA said, "It may be that this tariff raise is within reason, but we cannot help but feel that it hits hardest at those Alaskans who can least afford the additional cost."

"It is mainly the Native villager who must fall back on air transportation for movement of his snowmobile, and he is the man who can least afford the additional expense."

Stating that ANICA realizes that the airlines cannot provide service unless they make a profit, Dorsey asked the congressmen for any information they could provide "as to why the high tariff is necessary on such an important item in the Native budget."

Alaska and Wien Consolidated are the two major airlines serving the Native villages of Alaska.

scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at the Hess Hall on the campus. The cuisine: seal meat, muktuk, caribou meat, and agutak (Eskimo ice cream). The charge will be \$3.00 per plate.

The proceeds will be going toward funding the Pin Project to send native children to Lower 48 for Christmas holidays as a cultural exchange project.

Everybody is invited to join in the feast and fun.

Borbridge Reviews...

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ity importance.

EMIL NOTTI, President of Alaska Federation of Natives and John Borbridge, Jr., First Vice-President of Alaska Federation of Natives have assigned priority to personal visits to the Senators and the administrative assistants assigned the task of advising the Senators on the matter of the Alaska Native Land Claims.

Most Alaskans tend to think that the issue of the equitable resolution of the long pending Alaska Native land rights can be viewed in isolation and in effect separated from the sad history of United States Indian relationships.

This is simply not the case. We encountered a vast reservoir of sympathy, support and understanding by people who regarded the land claims issue as one final opportunity for the United States to do justice by the original or aboriginal inhabitants of the land.

IN AN EFFORT to inform the country and thereby to arouse the national conscience the two members of the AFN Washington, D.C. delegation have discussed the Alaska Native Land Rights issue on television, radio and with various reporters including those from Time magazine, the Congressional Quarterly and other reputable periodicals.

There are gradually increasing demands to address various groups relative to this very timely issue.

A great many people in this country appreciate the fact that notwithstanding the long deferred justice the Alaska Natives have chosen to uphold the institutions of their government by seeking a settlement within the Congress.

Mr. Emil Notti journeyed to New York to check on the progress of the AFN Ford application which would have addressed itself to post-settlement administration.

While there he spoke to members of the General Council of Churches and the Inter-religious Foundation for Community Organizations relative to the possibility of their active support or assistance in our efforts to seek a just settlement.

Emil Notti was in Detroit, Michigan, on November 25, 1969, for the purpose of seeking support from the Assembly of the General Council of Churches.

THE CITIZENS Advocate Center recently published a book, MY BROTHER'S KEEPER, in which is recounted the grievances of the Indian peoples over the years. John Borbridge was invited to participate along with other Indian leaders from across the country in the development of recommendations resulting from this book.

A group of us met in the executive office buildings in Washington, D.C. with some of President Nixon's top level executive assistants who included Mr. Leonard Garmin.

We also met with Vice-President Spiro Agnew's administrative assistants who are headed by Mr. C.D. Ward and Mr. Robertson, Executive Director of the

Christmas Card Rate No More

There is no longer a lower rate for unsealed Christmas Cards, according to Helen Bell, Officer in Charge of the Fairbanks Post Office.

The minimum rate per piece is now six cents which provides first class service to anywhere in the United States.

Mrs. Bell also mentioned that all air mail envelopes must carry full air mail postage regardless of destination.

National Council on Indian Opportunity and other top level people for a period of four hours.

Our recommendations were then presented to Vice President Spiro Agnew who listened attentively and expressed his deep concern for and desire to work closely with the Indian people.

He stated that he regarded his statutory responsibility for working with the American Indians as an opportunity and declared that he intended to acquaint himself very thoroughly with their problems and potentiality before reaching any basic conclusion.

MEMBERS OF the Washington, D.C. press corps were invited to a cocktail party at which First Vice President John Borbridge was honored. The opportunity to tell the Land Claims story to a number of reporters and editors was utilized to the fullest.

Congressman Howard Pollock introduced the guest of honor who had the opportunity to speak on the issue of the land claims to the gathering.

Senator Edward Kennedy who was in attendance expressed his deep concern and indicated that he was prepared to assist in any appropriate manner.

PULITZER PRIZE winning author Scott Momaday was honored by a cocktail reception hosted by Senator and Mrs. Fred Harris of Oklahoma.

Present at the reception for Mr. Momaday who is a Kiowa Indian were members of the Steering Committee of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Mr. Yarborough, Chief Commissioner of the Indian Claims Commission and Mr. Webb, Chief Council for the Indian Claims Commission discussed the Alaska Native Land Rights issue in detail during the reception and at a subsequent dinner with Mr. Borbridge.

Both gentlemen were extremely knowledgeable and expressed a personal desire to visit our fascinating and exciting state.

Daily reports on progress, meetings as to strategy and other mundane necessities that are vital to a coordinated effort fill out a typical day in Washington, D.C.

BY HAVING their own representatives in Washington, D.C., the Alaska Federation of Natives and in effect the Native peoples of Alaska are advancing their own case as to their competency and ability to assume full responsibility following the resolution of this land claims issue.

Many of these Congressmen and their assistants who will have so much to do with the final decisions are meeting Alaska Natives for the first time.

We should not hesitate to remind ourselves that full control of the lands, resources and compensation received as a result of an equitable settlement is as important as the seeking of a just settlement itself.

The AFN representatives in Washington, D.C., have developed in conjunction with the efforts of Editor Howard Rock and public relations man, Jim Thomas a schedule for reporting to the people.