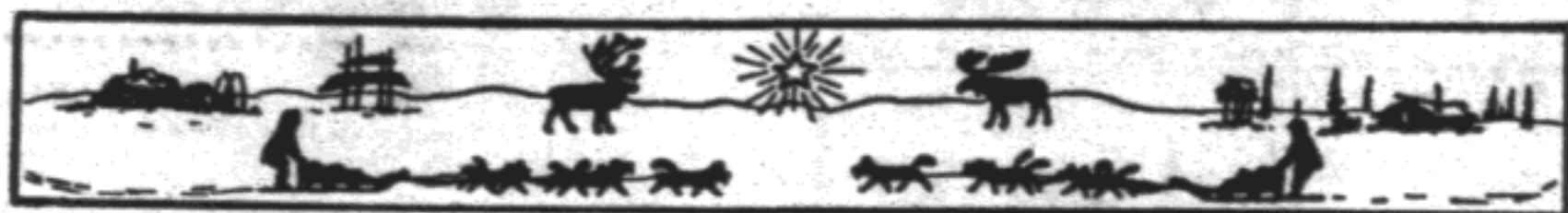


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Editorial—

The Importance of Claims News in Villages

The designation of Tundra Times by the regional attorneys of Alaska native organizations to be the media for villages in dispensing news of the land claims legislation in Congress, as well as news of related nature, is a heartening one to the staff of the newspaper.

The designation is a significant one for us. It should also be viewed as such by the villagers. It means that the outlying areas everywhere in Alaska should get news of the land claims matter as it progresses toward legislation in Congress and its course through the actual legislation. This will be vitally important to follow every step of the way. It should include reactions of the proponents, native leaders, senators and those of the team of attorneys. It should also contain the efforts of those who will oppose certain contents of the final land bill that will course through Congress. All of these will be vital to follow and all will be commented upon by those who are most concerned with the land claims progress.

It is vitally important then for the villagers, towns, and those native people in cities to watch the momentous effort—the fight for equitable and justifiable solution to the native land claims. The Tundra Times will try hard to present the news of the land matter without bias and to present it as completely as possible.

We are not professing, of course, that we will be hog-gish about the particular subject but we will try to dispense it from all angles good or otherwise. The claims question will be the headline item in the Alaska news media as well as elsewhere. Reading us and other media should give Alaskans a well-rounded knowledge and information of what is going on and what will entail thereafter.

Editorial—

Misleading Headline

The state's largest newspaper in Anchorage last Friday clarified in large banner headline the following: "A NEW NATIVE CLAIM." As were the native leaders, the staff of this paper was distressed by the headline and felt that it was totally unnecessary because the contents of the Anchorage newspaper banner story were covered in the May 29, 1969 issue of the Tundra Times. That was two months ago.

That issue brought out the attainment of unity among the native organizational groups within the Alaska Federation of Natives. It also brought out the points of agreement now largely contained in the AFN position paper that is being scrutinized in Washington, D. C. Among the points agreed upon by vote was the following:

"...The third motion called for a two per cent overriding royalty, in perpetuity, on all lands in Alaska which would not be patented to natives..."

Chief Isaac Gaining Support

Chief Andrew Isaac and the Tanacross natives have received support in their fight for title to the Tanacross claim from one

member of the Alaska Congressional delegation.

In a letter to Interior Secretary Hickel, Senator Mike Gravel stated, "The questions related to the propriety, if not the legality of certain land transactions affecting Native residents made during the last two decades and also asked for the reasons their claim of November 30, 1950, was not given proper and prompt consideration."

Gravel said, "Further, the Tanacross Council asked for departmental assistance if providing clarification and understanding of the land laws that affect them. I would appreciate receiving a copy of your response to these questions and requests."

Gravel requested Secretary Hickel's cooperation in resolving the status of the Tanacross claim, in which no final determination was made during the fifty-two year history of claims, assertions, petitions, and appeals.

Gravel said that, despite a request he had made to state and federal agencies to consider the Tanacross claim, the problem has not been resolved.

"In a letter of May 13 I requested the Director of the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska to arrange a meeting in Tanacross with the Tanacross Council and other involved federal and state agencies to discuss the land problems of the people in that area," Gravel said.

"This meeting was held May 27 with representatives of the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The State Division of Lands did not attend," stated Gravel.

"I am not aware of any concrete answers to the land problems of the Tanacross people as a result of this meeting," he said.

Senator Gravel has indicated to the Tundra Times that he wishes to meet with Chief Andrew Isaac and the Tanacross native in the near future.

The Senator said he would travel to Tanacross to explore firsthand the land issue and to solicit the opinions of the Tanacross villagers.

In other developments on the Tanacross claim issue, Governor Keith Miller informed attorneys Barry Jackson and Tom Fenton that he has received their request to freeze state action within the Tanacross protest.

The Governor told Jackson and Fenton, attorney representing Tanacross, that he has taken under consideration their request and that his decision would be forthcoming.

Gravel also expressed concern that BLM policy in refusing to process applications for native allotments and native townsites in protest areas may be unnecessary.

"It is not my feeling that the processing of applications for Native townsites negates the purpose of PLO 4582 if the affected Native organization does waive its protest to allow such processing," Gravel said.

Urging action to resolve the Tanacross claim, Gravel said, "I feel that this entire problem which has dragged on for so many years needs to be resolved as quickly as possible."

Rep. Tom Fink Attacks

Anchorage Republican Tom Fink Wednesday attacked the proposal advanced by the Alaska Federation of Natives for a two per cent overriding royalty on revenues from state and federal lands as part of the native land claims settlement.

Fink said no group had any right to make such a request. He also requested Governor Keith Miller to poll other Alaska legislators regarding their opinion of the proposal.

Fink said that the major portion of the claims settlement should take the form of land compensation, or payment of money, rather than revenue sharing.

Most native leaders, in defense of the AFN proposal, shared the opinion expressed by AFN Vice President John Borbridge.

Borbridge termed the revenue sharing proposal "another indication of sophistication" on the

part of Alaskan Natives. Borbridge urged that the state become involved in the settlement through the revenue sharing proposal.

"Looking at the economy and the welfare of its citizens, the state is involved," he said. "The finest thing that can happen is that the State administration rally around this just consideration to its Alaska Native citizens," stated Borbridge.

Borbridge emphasized the importance of seeking a settlement which would be more "flexible" because of revenue sharing.

"We could make a settlement now, and within ten years new discoveries and developments could make it insignificant. In asking for revenue sharing, we have retained a share in the development of the land," he stated.

"Alaska Natives are a part of the land; revenue sharing will give us some regard to this factor," Borbridge said.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We had a nice time on the Fourth of July. I wasn't in the parade. I was playing in the band during the parade.

I won \$3.50 from racing and \$20.00 from winning the rowboat contest for 12 years old and under.

On July 9th, my mom and Harold went down to a goat farm near Seattle and got 6 baby goats. We were going to get four baby goats but the people that owned the farm gave us 2 more. We have 2 bucks and 4 does. Four of them are 4, 5, or 6 weeks old. Another one is 14 weeks old, but she is the same size as the other 4 because she was an orphan. She wouldn't take milk from any goat or from a pail either. That's why she is so small now. The last one is now about 10 days old. He is so cute. We named him Bambi because he looks like a little deer. The other names are: Little Big Horn, Little Little Horn, Billy Goat Gruff, Scarface, and Spook because she is so skittish. More than 100 people have come to see our goats.

We also have 3 baby puppies and two dogs. One of the three puppies are yellow. The other two are black.

We have two cats and three baby kitties. One kitty we named Orange Peel. The other two we didn't name yet.

We have 23 animals and people at our house. Wow!

Enclosed is a check for the paper of the 4th and the 11th of July.

Sincerely,
Ernie Riach

Firefighters

Fairbanks, Alaska
July 25, 1969

Fairbanks Native Federation
Tundra Times
234 Northward Building
Fairbanks, Alaska

SUBJECT: Bureau of Land Management Employees

At the present time, the BLM imports its employees, overhead, fire bosses, etc., from the lower 48 states, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

In my opinion, and of my observations, the Alaskan natives or Alaskans are fully qualified to be employed as overhead and fire bosses.

The Alaskan knows the value of his Country and he also knows what he will encounter while combating the forest and tundra fires which are razing the feeding grounds of the caribou, moose and other animals which make up the staple foods of Alaskans residing in our urban areas.

The present practice of importing BLM employees only hurts our economy. The BLM employees come up here for a specified length of time and return to their home station with their earnings. By employing Alaskans, this will keep the capital in our State.

The Alaskan could be readily trained to do the same job as the imported BLM employees. In the long run this will pay for itself a thousand-fold and the people of Alaska and its businesses.

Very sincerely,
Billie One Feather

The motion was not made as of last Friday but two months ago. It was reported by us and other media at that time. Last Friday's headline was misleading. We hope it was not done by design but rather by the lack of proper information. At any rate, it baited such well known personalities as Rep. Tom Fink of Anchorage, who has been touted as one of the most influential state legislators, to reflect the "A New Native Claim" headline and treating it as such.

By the way, the series of meetings between the AFN and Gov. Keith Miller's state government representatives last week and this week in Anchorage are to arrive at a working agreement between the two for presentation in the congressional hearings within the next few days.

WANTED: Chilkat Blankets; totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; potlatch 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.